

# The Middlebury Campus

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J.B. AR

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## MARCHING WITH PRIDE



COURTESY PETR KNOR

Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) hosted a trip to Burlington on Sept. 22 to attend Vermont's Pride Parade, which began at noon. The parade ran along Church Street and ended in Battery Park.

## Jamnesty mixes art and activism

By Bronwyn Oatley

On Saturday, Sept. 22 a multi-arts collaborative event co-hosted by Verbal Onslaught and Amnesty International drew a crowd to the McCullough Student Center to examine the theme of racial injustice in America. Jamnesty, an event that combined spoken word poetry, music, dance and audio-visual content, continued the accelerating trend of students combining art and activism on the college campus.

Jamnesty featured 13 student performances and an open mic session, and was open to all types of artistic expression. Organizers explained that they sought to commemorate the one-year execution date of Troy Davis, to examine the case of Reggie Clements and to discuss the broader theme of racial injustice.

Rana Abdelhamid '15, the student activist coordinator for the Vermont branch of Amnesty International and the founder and president of the Middlebury Amnesty International chapter, explained her motivations for helping to organize the event.

"Troy Davis's sister wants people to commemorate his death by spreading his story. With an art event, you're drawing in some people that you wouldn't normally see, and then you're telling them: 'here are the facts, here is what's happening. Here is a race issue in the US that maybe you haven't seen before, and now you're seeing it.'"

Abdelhamid explained that as a grassroots movement, Amnesty International has been encouraged to move in a more artistic direction by its supporters. Over the past decade, activists have increasingly sought to use audio-visual tools, music and personal narratives as a means by which to express their opinions.

"People are doing flash mobs, they're making Youtube videos,"

she said. "I think that creative activism is at its peak at this point."

According to Jennifer Herrera, special assistant to the dean of the College and the senior advisor for diversity initiatives, a similar movement is underway on the college campus.

"Are we seeing more students tap into the creative arts as a form of activism? ... I don't think we have a name for it right now, but I think that's exactly what's happening."

"As we listen to what students are writing in their poems right now — when they're performing both through verbal onslaught or poor form poetry — there are some really strong themes in there. And it's not just about race, sexuality and identity, but also about personal experiences."

"It's beautiful that students are finding that voice, and feel comfortable enough to do it in such public settings," she added. "I'm all about trying to develop that, and nurture it, and let it live in a safe space."

Lara Shabb '13, a student poet from Lebanon, performed "Security Checks," a poem in which she spoke about racial profiling — a theme drawn from a personal experience at the Burlington International Airport. "Platinum member of the 'randomly-selected-traveler's-gild' / I wonder what it would be like to become the metallic beeping of a metal rib cage machine, that seems to pick up on my heritage rather than my baggage," she said in her performance.

Barbara Ofosu-Somuah '13, the host of Verbal Onslaught, explained that the poetry-based group will seek to bring people together for one theme-based multi-arts collaborative event each month throughout the year. Ofosu-Somuah is in discussion with representatives from Feminist Action at Middlebury, the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance

and Alianza to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

"With a lot of discussions on race and ethnicity, these things are all being spoken about in silos on this campus. It's as if there is a narrative that says: 'This is art, art stays here. This is activism, activism stays here. If you talk about race then you're not talking about gender or sexuality because it's all

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 4

## Endowment hit by low returns

By Kelsey Collins

The College is seeking to diversify its traditional revenue sources in the wake of a drop in the endowment growth rate during the 2012 fiscal year. The return on the College's endowment for fiscal year 2012 was only 2.7 percent, falling short of the five percent target rate and dramatically lower than the 17 percent return in 2010 and 18 percent in 2011. The endowment, the size of which is determined by its growth, spending and amount of gifts, finances 18 percent of the College's operating budget.

The College spent approximately 5.6 percent of the endowment in fiscal year 2012, as the College continues to pay off the debt and the incremental operating cost of infrastructure projects implemented over a decade ago, such as Ross Commons, Atwater Dining Hall and other facilities on campus.

"Between 1990 and 2004, the College took somewhat of a risk by investing just shy of \$300 million in our campus infrastructure," said President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz in an interview. "It was a 'Field of Dreams' kind of thing — if you build it, they will come. But our facilities needed modernization in order to attract the best students and faculty."

Liebowitz defended these projects despite the incurred overhead costs.

"The flip side is that we borrowed \$200 million to finance the

upgrade (and reserves that we fund annually for infrastructure to cover the rest), and we need to pay off that debt for a number of years," said Liebowitz.

"Some people say, 'What a risky move that was!' But the bigger picture is that the College achieved its goals of attracting great students and faculty and providing excellent facilities in which to teach and learn. And, applications increased from less than 3,800 to 8,900 between 1995 and 2011 and we have among the best facilities of all liberal arts colleges," added Liebowitz.

The below-expected performance of the endowment, combined with these costs, amounted to a change in value of approximately \$25 million for fiscal year 2012, a decrease from \$908 million in 2011 to \$883 million in 2012.

The College's endowment is managed by Investure LLC, an investment management firm that also invests the endowments of other private liberal arts colleges such as Dickinson College, Smith College and Trinity College. Investure — which is responsible for managing a combined portfolio of \$9.1 billion pooled from 13 institutions — does not release to the public specific information about where it invests its money, making it difficult to determine which investments may have yielded the lower-than-expected return.

Vice President for Finance and Treasurer's Office Patrick Norton pointed to the larger economic situ-

SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 3

## Alcohol survey results released

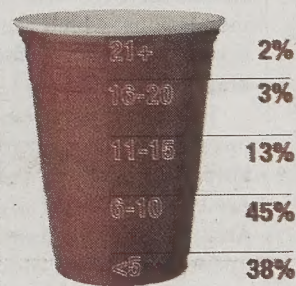
By Michelle Smoler

This past Thursday, Sept. 20, administrators, staff and students gathered to discuss the results of the alcohol survey conducted among nine of the 11 New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) schools in March. This survey was an enhanced and modified version of the alcohol survey administered independently by the College in 2010.

Administrators and students

SEE STATISTICS, PAGE 2

### NUMBER OF DRINKS

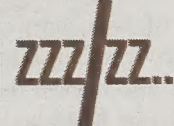


In the past two weeks, what is the greatest number of drinks you consumed in one period? (% of respondents)

In the 2011-2012 Academic year: (% of respondents)



**37%** Had residence damage, up to five times



**53%** Had sleep interrupted, up to five times



**71%** Took care of someone who drank too much

### WHITE

STUDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE DISCIPLINED FOR ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS, PLAY DRINKING GAMES & DRINK TO RELIEVE STRESS THAN

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & STUDENTS OF COLOR

### MALE ATHLETES

GET DRUNK MORE OFTEN AND DRINK MORE DRINKS, MORE LIKELY TO HAVE UNPROTECTED SEX, MORE LIKELY TO GET IN TROUBLE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY THAN

FEMALE ATHLETES & MALE/FEMALE NON-ATHLETES

### NON-AIDED

STUDENTS ARE ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO PLAY DRINKING GAMES & ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE ALCOHOL POLICIES ARE TOO STRICT THAN

FINANCIALLY AIDED STUDENTS

### MEN

DRINK MORE OFTEN, GET MORE DRUNK, AND ARE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT GETTING IN TROUBLE OR DAMAGING PROPERTY THAN

WOMEN

### FIRST-YEARS

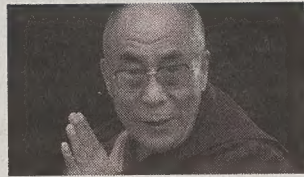
ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY THEY DRANK HARD ALCOHOL, WERE HARASSED/HASLED WHILE DRUNK, HAD AN UNWANTED SEXUAL EXPERIENCE, HAD THEIR SLEEP/STUDYING INTERRUPTED

61% SURVEY RESPONSE RATE (OF TOTAL STUDENT BODY) GRAPHIC BY IAN STEWART

## INSIDE



SPARTAN RACE TESTS THE TOUGHEST OF VT PAGE 5

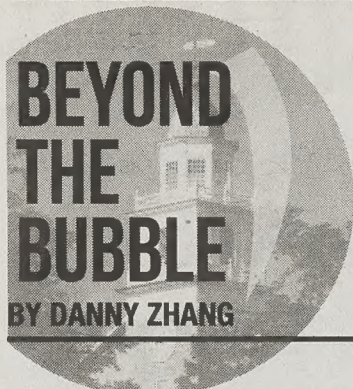


DALAI LAMA POSES CONTROVERSY FOR CHINESE STUDENTS PAGES 15



MIGRANTS' ARTWORK ON DISPLAY AT M GALLERY PAGE 16





Over the past two weeks, anti-Western protests have engulfed the Middle East following the circulation of a highly controversial video that mocked the Prophet Mohammed and the religion of Islam.

The video was produced and posted on YouTube under the alias "Sam Bacile" July of this year. It did not gain significant attention in the Middle East until an Arab-dubbed version of the film was distributed to Egyptian media outlets in early September. Since then, furious mobs have taken to the streets from Libya to Pakistan, burning American flags and targeting U.S. diplomatic missions.

On Sept. 11, one of these mobs attacked an American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other consulate staff. The group reportedly responsible for the killings, Ansar al-Sharia, has been linked to al-Qaeda.

President Barack Obama strongly condemned the attack, and held a moment of silence for the fallen American personnel at the White House. The government also opted to bolster the security presence at American diplomatic sites around the globe and began its own investigation into the terrorist attack.

Attacks on diplomatic compounds also took place in Egypt, where protestors tore down the American flag at the U.S. Embassy. In Tunisia, protestors destroyed an American school in the capital. Mobs also descended upon U.S. diplomatic installations in Yemen, Kuwait and Iran.

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People also took to the streets in Nigeria, Sudan, Bangladesh and Muslim-dominated regions of India. President Obama was burned in effigy in Afghanistan while police faced off against protestors in Jakarta, Indonesia. Protestors also burned flags in front of the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia. Even in Toronto, Canada, home to a large Muslim immigrant population, organized protests marched on the U.S. consulate.

Many protestors called on the U.S. government to take action against producers of the film. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has condemned the film in unequivocal terms and distanced the U.S. government from its anti-Islam sentiments. Governments of Muslim nations have expressed anger regarding the film's content but have denounced the violent nature of the protests.

The man who supposedly led the production of the film, Nakoula Basseley Nakoula — though he has sworn no responsibility for the content — claims to be connected to the Egyptian Copts, a part of the Christian minority in Egypt.

A new wave of protests was also set off last week, after a French magazine published cartoons satirizing Prophet Mohammed. To protect its diplomatic staff, France shut down 20 of its embassies immediately after the cartoons were published. The cartoons also sparked a contentious debate about freedom of expression in France, where tensions have been rising between the Catholic majority and the growing Muslim populace for almost two decades.

## STUDENTS SEEK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



On Wednesday, Sept. 19, the Center for Education in Action hosted the MiddAction Fair in the McCullough Social Space, where students and representatives presented opportunities for students to perform volunteer work in the local area.

## Statistics reveal drinking habits in NESCAC schools

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alike were unsurprised by the survey's results, as they were relatively consistent with the information garnered in 2010.

Associate Vice President for Planning and Assessment and College Registrar Leroy Graham, who worked closely with counterparts at four other schools to develop the survey, explained that the survey data would be used as a source of comparison that will help the College evaluate where it fits in with other schools. Moving forward, this survey also provides a baseline for the purpose of measuring change in alcohol use and behavior over time.

Present at last Thursday's forum were members of the Alcohol Task Force, which was convened in response to the original 2010 survey. After the 2010 survey, the Task Force engaged in a year-long active investigation of alcohol use on campus and its effects on the community and concluded their research with a list of recommendations, which were passed to the Office of the President for consideration last May.

The administration has already begun to carry out the suggestions of the Task Force. On Sept. 12, Dean of Students and Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture Katy Smith Abbott posted an update on Dean of Students and Chief Diversity Officer Shirley Collado's blog, "One Dean's View," enumerating their current progress. Among other developments, the College is finally interviewing candidates for the position of director of health and wellness, which has remained empty since Jyoti Danieri's departure prior to the 2011-2012 academic year.

The 15-member Task Force has been, for all intents and purposes, disbanded. Many former members have remained involved in overseeing the development of the Task Force's initiatives; however, the administration plans to organize a separate implementation team responsible for ensuring the realization of Task Force's recommendations. Smith Abbott expressed reticence with placing too much importance on the assembly of a physical team.

"Even with an implementation team ... the reality is that many of the Task Force's recommendations involve lots of other stakeholders," she said. "It's really a coordination effort rather than having a task force that drives the train forward."

At this time, there is no delegation currently convened with the function of continuing investigation into the alcohol issue. The NESCAC-wide survey, however, will be conducted every four years to gauge any changes or developments in the consumption of alcohol on campuses.

During the forum, several members of the administration were asked to share their ideal view for the future of campus social life and alcohol use. Collado placed less emphasis on potential policy changes and spoke to the need for greater cooperation among students as well as cooperation between students and the administration in resolving the major issues evident in the survey data.

"I wish we could get more of the peer-to-peer responsibility and bystander intervention where it needs to be in residential halls," said Collado.

Vice President for Planning and Assessment and Professor of Psychology Susan Baldrige hopes to create more options for students that do not subscribe to the current alcohol-centric social scene.

"Our average social life ratings are not only lower for us than they are for many other things at Middlebury, but they are also lower than the average ratings of social experiences by students at our peer schools," said Baldrige.

Outlining the College's aspirations ignited discussion over what can practically be achieved while taking into account the reality of the data and the circumstance on campus. Students in the audience voiced the opinion that the source of this problem lies in a communication gap between the administration and students.

"A major problem with this whole discussion is still that the administration ... and not the students, [is] looking at this as a problem," said Eyal Levy '14.

While a wide range of faculty, staff and administrators attended the forum, they were met by a group of less than twenty students. The largely empty McCullough Social Space, as noted by Collado, was filled to bursting at last year's alcohol forum as students mobilized against the possibility of a dry campus. What this level of support means for the future of the alcohol issue, however, is also up for debate.

"I know that most of my peers have strong opinions regarding alcohol policy," wrote Cook Commons Senator Rachel Liddell '15 in an email. "I want to implore them to attend these functions. If you don't show up, your voice is not heard. I predict that retrospective complaints will be met with disdain from the task force and the faculty. Now is the time to act."

Smith Abbott took a more optimistic view of student attendance.

"I am not a person who gets hung up on turnout. I may be a lone wolf in that regard but ... I genuinely feel like if the people who want to be there attend and there is an interesting conversation where people can share frank ideas ... then it is a success," she said.

## Crossroads Café opens for new year

By Sam Simas

On Monday, Sept. 24, Crossroads Café reopened its doors to the college community, boasting upgraded food and more student-friendly hours.

Originally scheduled to open on Sept. 19, the opening was delayed by small technical snafus, but was fully operational for student enjoyment starting Monday.

"We've created [work] schedules, put everything back together and hired people," said Front Server Manager Jessie Lussier '13 of the work that has gone into preparing the venue. "We had 18 employees last year, and came back with only 10," she added, noting that having to find employees has been an obstacle to opening.

In only its third year of operation, Crossroads still has not established a consistent set-up protocol for the venue, which has proven another challenge for the staff. Current managers must figure things out as they go along, taking notes from their predecessors. The managers say they hope that in the future Crossroads will have a mentor or overseer who could provide consistency even as the staff changes, but that position has not yet been established.

Along with staff changes, Crossroads will be making changes to its menu items this year.

One of the highlights is the updated smoothie line.

"We're adding boosters to the smoothies," explained Food and Operations Manager Craig Thompson '13.5.

Students will be able to add ingredients, such as protein. In addition to the boosters, Culinary Manager Cayla Marvil '13.5 said that new flavors like passion fruit and pineapple will be available.

The staff has also made improvements to the popular noodle bowls and altered the pricing of other items. The price of the cookies, which are one of the venue's biggest sellers, have been reduced from \$1.50 apiece to only 99 cents.

In the past, Crossroads has suffered complaints from students for running out of items, but the management hopes to avoid this problem by setting new policies to prevent food shortages.

"Our goal this year is not to run out of stuff," Thompson said.

In addition to food improvements, the management has made changes to accommodate other student needs.

New hours will allow more students to benefit from the venue's atmosphere.

"The environment is really calm and relaxed; it doesn't have all the tension of the library," said Holly Burke '15.

The venue will be open for student use from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Friday and 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.

## MCAB'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

### Sweet Remains

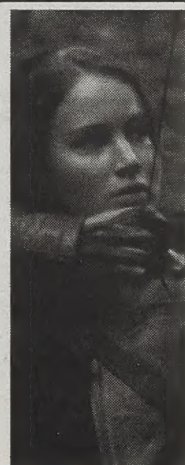
Concert presented by  
Brainerd Commons  
McCullough Social Space  
FRIDAY AT 9:30 P.M.

### Free Friday Film

Hunger Games  
FRIDAY AT 7 & 10 P.M. IN DANA

### Sarah Blacker Concert

50% off Love Me  
Tenders and Dr. Feel  
Goods!  
SATURDAY 10 - 12 A.M.





# College considers merits of online education

By Jess Berry

On Sept. 3, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* posted an article written by Former Provost and Executive Vice President Alison Byerly discussing the issue of massive open online courses, or MOOCs. While the College rejected using MOOCs as part of its curriculum, many institutions across America have adopted the new model, both for its profitability and as a way to attract new students.

In the article, titled "Before You Jump on the Bandwagon..." Byerly, who is on academic leave this year as a visiting scholar in literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presents the questions that she believes all colleges should consider before adding MOOCs to their offered courses. A MOOC is a course offered online that is open to anyone — inside the institution or outside of it — who is willing to pay.

"Colleges that are contemplating a new venture, such as a MOOC or other online-learning offerings, need to ask themselves the fundamental question: Is this consistent with the unique mission of our institution?" wrote Byerly in the article.

The article also asks colleges to consider whether MOOCs fit their institution's financial model and if their motives for adding MOOCs to their curriculum are appropriate. Byerly urges institutions to consider if they are adding MOOCs for the good of the institution or for the prestige?

Byerly said that she has long been interested in issues related to media and education, and felt that she could combine her knowledge of technology with her administrative experience to offer advice on MOOCs from a strategic standpoint.

"Many schools are moving very quickly to become involved in offering MOOCs," wrote Byerly in an email. "Yet it seemed to me that there was very little meaningful discussion of the question of what specific goals were be-

ing served by MOOCs at the institutions offering them."

While Byerly believes that technology offers completely different opportunities and benefits than face-to-face classes, she says that MOOCs would probably not serve well at a small liberal arts college.

"I think that there is little reason for students who are at Middlebury to prefer an online version of a course they can experience firsthand," wrote Byerly.

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz said that Byerly was correct in her suggestion that MOOCs are not the proper model for online education for the College.

"I think there's a lot of unknowns about MOOCs," said Liebowitz. "When I started pressing to ask what type of model this was going to be — is it eventually going to be for credit, is there going to be proctoring? — it was still very fuzzy. I think Allison's right. She was saying, 'before you all rush to this thing, you better think twice about what it is.'"

Byerly and Liebowitz agree, however, that technology certainly has a place at the College and will need to be seriously considered in the coming years.

Liebowitz offered that the College may consider providing online language courses for students returning from abroad. With the limited amount of language professors on campus, Liebowitz said, it may be beneficial to have high-level language students skype into a course taught abroad, such as students joining in on an economics course taught in China.

In this way, explained Liebowitz, students can continue to expand their education in ways that may not be possible with the resources available at the College.

"There are ways to expand the curriculum without increasing the cost or increasing the staffing," said Liebowitz. "I want the fac-

ulty to start thinking about that and to think about ways we can do things a bit more creatively to utilize our resources."

College Professor Emeritus John Elder, who retired two years ago, has since become involved in the digital revolution. In addition to participating in an online discussion on Robert Frost's poetry, giving him personal experience with an online education forum, Elder has spent much time considering the effects of online education.

Similar to Byerly and Liebowitz, Elder sees potential in online education, but also recognizes that with a small liberal arts college, there is a line that needs to be drawn between online and conventional classes.

"It seems worthwhile to stake our college's claim in this national conversation, and to investigate how far we can go in pursuing our own seminar-based curriculum online," wrote Elder in an email. "Not that I think the internet could or should ever replace discussion around a table, but it could perhaps be one way to build upon or extend such face-to-face experience."

Elder believes that online seminars for students abroad could be beneficial. The professor emeritus also suggested that online courses might be beneficial for students participating in internships, or for graduates of the College who want to continue participating in the educational community.

"I believe that colleges like Middlebury will need to look carefully at the opportunities technology offers," wrote Byerly. "But also work hard at communicating to external audiences the unique benefits that the residential liberal arts college offers: the mentorship of dedicated faculty, the opportunity to connect classroom learning with experiences outside the classroom and life-long membership in a close-knit intellectual and social community. That is the real 'value proposition' of the liberal arts college."



## Prague, Czech Republic

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# Endowment growth rate falls to 2.7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ation as an explanation for the change in return value.

"[It was a] tough year for the global markets," wrote Norton in an email. "We have a \$280 million allocation to global equities and while we beat the benchmark (MSCI All Country World Index was -6.0 percent) [this allocation] returned -1.6 percent for the year."

Despite the change in the endowment's value, Liebowitz maintains that the below-expected return will not have quite as dramatic of an impact as one might anticipate because the College uses a three-year moving average to determine allocations from the endowment.

"The 2.7 percent return this past fiscal year is not a huge hit to our budget," said Liebowitz. "The prior two years exceeded the expected five percent return significantly, and so we are in good shape. But if below-five percent returns continue, we will feel it and will need to do some unplanned budget tightening."

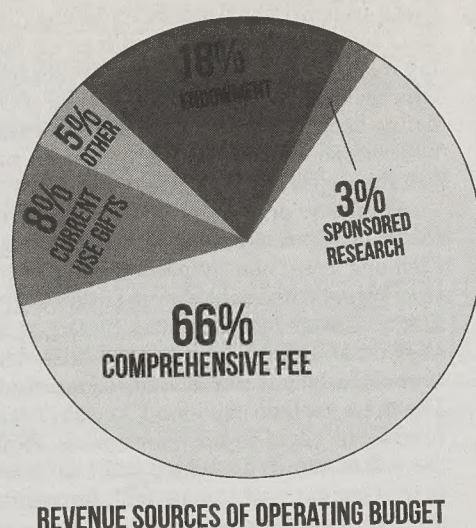
In addition to the endowment and the comprehensive fee, the College's budget is also funded in part by donations to the College. In fiscal year 2012, the College received \$9.65 million in unrestricted gifts, which, unlike restricted gifts and gifts to the endowment, can be channeled, in full, directly to the College's operating budget.

"Donors have continued to be generous, although we have seen a reduction in long term pledges due to economic uncertainty and desire to re-assess commitments annually," explained Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Meg Groves in an email. "During the downturn we began to emphasize the impact of total giving (current year use and longer term endowment-type gifts) more and also allowed and encouraged our donors to direct their gifts where they thought [they] could do the most good."

Despite the pressure on the endowment, Liebowitz remains adamant that this cost will not be transferred to the students through a disproportionately large increase in the price of tuition.

Two years ago, the College implemented a "CPI + 1" ceiling on tuition hikes, which limits the annual increase in the comprehensive fee to one percentage point above the inflation rate.

The "CPI + 1" ceiling illustrates a response in the College's financial model to the recent



economic downturn and to the growing national debate over the affordability of higher education.

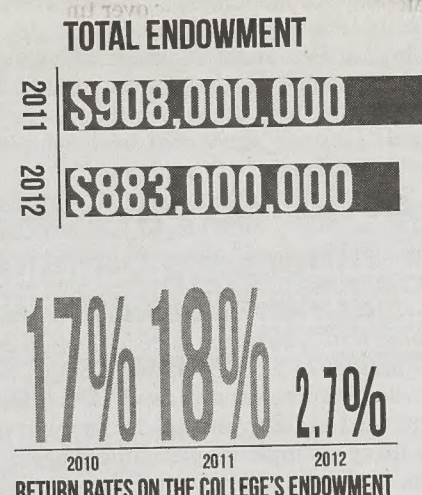
From 1980 through 2010, the College increased the comprehensive fee by an average of 6.2 percent per year, a growth rate consistent with peer institutions' increases. While tuition currently accounts for approximately 66 percent of the College's revenue, Liebowitz argued that increasing the comprehensive fee is no longer the answer to financing the College's operating budget.

"It would be easy to believe, with nearly 9,000 applicants to the College this past year, the demand for a Middlebury education is strong, highly inelastic, and insulates the College..." wrote Liebowitz in a memo to the faculty over the summer. "It would be foolish, however, to ignore these criticisms and the wide range of student choices within higher education; both suggest a far greater elasticity of demand."

The decision to tie tuition to the CPI has come under criticism, but Liebowitz defends the policy.

"There were many, including a number of my faculty colleagues, who pointed out that CPI+1 leaves money on the table — that if we can charge more, we should," said Liebowitz in an interview. "But we need to take the long view. We need to think about our families and students and those who will turn away from even applying to Middlebury if the costs keep increasing as much as they have."

The CPI + 1 ceiling on the comprehensive fee and the recent decline in the endowment growth rate have renewed the importance of



pursuing other sources of income to finance the College's operations.

"The Language Schools, the Bread Loaf programs, the Schools Abroad and Monterey diversify our sources of revenue beyond the undergraduate college's traditional revenue generators," wrote Liebowitz in the memo. "[This leaves] us less dependent on any one source of income, and less vulnerable to economic volatility than would otherwise be the case."

The income from the College's outside operations, all of which registered operating surpluses for the 2012 fiscal year, has helped the College stay competitive with peer institutions that benefit from much larger endowments.

Recently, the College undertook a for-profit venture in response to the need to subsidize the cost of providing an ever more expensive education. Middlebury Interactive Languages (MIL) is the College's for-profit online language education venture, and is expected to become profitable in fiscal year 2013 after a three-year start up period.

While Liebowitz expressed confidence in the College's financial health, he also warned in his memo that the current model of higher education may not be a sustainable one.

"It behooves us to think collectively and creatively about how best to preserve what it is we do and value most, while understanding too, the need to think about the future and the consequences — both intended and unintended — of whatever choices we make in amending what has become an unsustainable cost structure."



## COLLEGE SHORTS

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

COMPILED BY ISABELLE DIETZ

### Fraud schemes obtain \$770,000 from student aid

21 people in California have been charged with fraud for attempting to steal federal college funding for nonexistent students. U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California Benjamin B. Wagner and Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education Kathleen Tighe announced on Tuesday, Sept. 18 that seven fraud schemes allegedly collected \$770,000 in federal student aid. Such schemes typically prey on community colleges with online class options, where students receiving federal money may be more anonymous.

"Federal student aid exists so that individuals can make their dream of a higher education a reality, not for criminals to use as a personal slush fund," said Inspector General Tighe.

— *Huffington Post*

### Police arrest suspect for phony bomb threat at LSU

On Monday, Sept. 17, an anonymous 911 phone call was made claiming that three bombs on the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus would detonate within the next two hours. Thousands of people were evacuated from campus, and students were only allowed to return to dormitories late Monday night. The police tracked down a suspect, William Bouvay Jr., 42, who admitted to making the calls upon questioning. He was taken into custody Tuesday night and, according to authorities, will be charged with communicating false information of a planned bombing, possibly along with other charges.

LSU Police Captain Cory Lalonde said that the police do not currently believe there is any connection between this threat and the bomb threats made that week at other universities — the University of Texas, North Dakota State University and Hiram College.

— *Huffington Post*

### Chancellor of UNC Chapel Hill steps down

On Monday, Sept. 17, Holden Thorpe, the chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, announced that he will resign at the end of the academic year. This decision is widely viewed as a result of several controversies that occurred while he was in office and the pressure of serious public scrutiny. Just last week, the campus' fundraiser Matt Kupec resigned following accusations that he and another employee used campus funds for their personal vacation. UNC Chapel Hill also suffered several controversies with the athletics program while Mr. Thorpe was in office. Thorpe has served as chancellor for four years, and now plans to return to his previous faculty position in the chemistry department. Several faculty members have expressed sorrow at his resignation.

— *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

## SGA UPDATE

LIS, SGA work to improve Portal

By Ben Anderson

The Student Government Association (SGA) held their first full meeting of the academic year on Sept. 23. SGA meetings are held in the Crest Room of the McCullough Student Center and are open to the student body. The *Campus* will provide bi-monthly updates on their proceedings.

#### SGA launches website

During the week of Sept. 3, one week before the start of classes, the SGA launched a new website. Past versions of the SGA website were updated infrequently and lacked up-to-date information about members and initiatives. The new website, which can be found at [sga.middlebury.edu](http://sga.middlebury.edu), includes a brief bio of the president, cabinet members and senators, information from recent meetings as well as other information on the SGA.

#### Senate hopes to boost Portal usage

The Sept. 23 meeting began with a reminder that representatives from Library and Information Services (LIS) will be coming to the Sept. 30 meeting of the SGA to brief the senators on LIS' plans for the upcoming year.

Before the meeting, Senator Will Potter '14.5 met with LIS to discuss their plans for the web service Portal. It has come to the attention of both LIS and the SGA that Portal is under-utilized by the College and Potter hoped to work with LIS to improve its image in the student body.

SGA and LIS are currently discussing plans to co-sponsor a contest open to all stu-

dents to design a new college web service. The plan is still in preliminary stages.

However, many of the senators think that the issue with Portal goes beyond the design and questioned whether redesigning the site would in fact garner interest among students. Ryan Kim '14, who attended the meeting, proposed that the lack of usage of Portal may be a publicity issue.

"How many of the problems Portal has been facing can be solved by a marketing push on the part of the SGA?" said Kim.

Potter pointed out that LIS has conducted numerous student-wide polls on Portal and much of the comments they received indicated that students liked the content on Portal but were disinterested in the design.

#### SGA ratifies SCOCC candidates

Director of Membership Sydney Fuqua '13 presented to the SGA the signatures collected by the prospective candidates for First-Year Senator and Student Co-Chair of Community Council. The candidates were ratified by the SGA with a unanimous vote.

#### Cabinet seeks ride share program

Chief of Staff Anna Esten '13 then spoke about work that has been done to start a ride-share program at the College. The ride-share program would encourage car-pooling in the college community among students, faculty and staff. Various platforms are currently being researched. There was some interest in a format started by a student at Grove City College. The program would be free for the

College and may change into a paid program, though the College could opt not to adopt it. The biggest issue with this program — a problem facing many ride-share programs, both ones that have been tried here at the College and around the country — is an issue of critical mass; the programs cannot seem to attract enough users to make the system effective.

Both LIS and Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) have approached Esten about various ride-share programs. During discussions at the meeting, senators mentioned again that the failure of past programs was most likely an issue of marketing. The thought of starting an events program where shuttles or ride-shares are organized between Middlebury and Burlington on days when there are large events going on in Burlington was also discussed.

#### Arnowitz floats Operational Account bill, by-laws modification

President of the SGA Charlie Arnowitz '13 polled the senators on their interest in reinstating an SGA Operational Account. The account would be accessible to Arnowitz when he needs to make SGA related purchases and would eliminate the need to pass legislation for each purchase. The straw poll received a positive response and Arnowitz will begin writing a bill to be presented to the Senate soon.

Discussion was started on Arnowitz's plans to modify the SGA by-laws, but the discussion was ultimately tabled until next week's meeting.

## Students perform in memory of Troy Davis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

so separate.' It shouldn't be that way."

Oforu-Somuah added, "This year Verbal Onslaught is opening up to more than just poetry, with the conceptualization that art is fluid, and art can be anything. We're hoping that people who are activists and looking for a space to share their thoughts will come ... it's not just Verbal Onslaught, it's Verbal Onslaught with a mission."

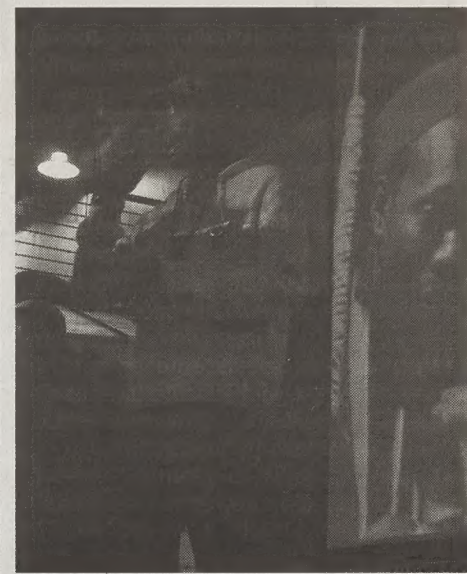
This mission was apparent on Saturday night, as videos were played that critically examined the cases of Troy Davis and Reggie Clemons.

Davis, an African American male, was executed in 1989 by the State of Georgia for the murder of a police officer. Though no murder weapon was ever found, Davis was sentenced to death due to the strength of the many testimonials pronounced against him. In the years following the trial, seven of nine key witnesses recanted their testimonies and cited police coercion during the

investigation.

According to the organizers of Saturday's event, a similar fate awaits Reggie Clemons in Missouri, where the young African American man sits on death row awaiting his execution date. Clemons is charged with the deaths of two white girls in a crime dating back to 1991 — a sentence that many believe was handed down based on an unjust prosecution.

Jamnesty organizers invited students to get involved in raising awareness about Clemons' case, and by participating in future Verbal Onslaught events in the future. The next event will take place on Oct. 18 at 51 Main at 9 p.m. and will be co-hosted by Verbal Onslaught and the Dance Marathon. The theme will be childhood, and the organizers will begin to raise awareness about the dance marathon, which will take place in winter term, and serve as a fundraiser for the Vermont Children's Miracle Network Hospital at Fletcher Allen in Burlington.



GABY FUENTES

On Sept. 22, students performed at Jamnesty, a collaboration between Verbal Onslaught and Amnesty International.

## Barrett Smith '13 wins election by six votes

By Bronwyn Oatley

On Tuesday, Sept. 25 the Student Government Association (SGA) announced the election of Barrett Smith '13 to the position of Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCOCC) by a margin of just six votes. Smith beat out Kathryn Benson '13 for the position in a contest that garnered approximately 25 percent of student voter turnout.

The SGA announced the victory in an email to the student body at 1:31 p.m., just over one hour after the polls closed. Smith secured 336 to Benson's 330 votes in the election.

In an interview with the *Campus* following the announcement, Smith was eager to begin work with the Community Council in the implementation of the objectives outlined in his platform.

"The social honor code is at the top of my agenda," he said. "It will naturally bring students together to write and debate; I think that this general assembly-type model will get students involved."

During the election, Smith campaigned on the idea of enacting a social honor code, an agreement drafted by students that would hold them accountable for their ac-



COURTESY OF AMY DONAHUE

Barrett Smith '13 was announced the new SCOCC on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Smith beat opponent Kathryn Benson '13 by a mere six votes (336-330). Smith used clown noses to promote his candidacy and "to put the 'mock' back in 'democracy.'"

tions within the community.

Smith also promoted the idea of trying to encourage a more representative democracy with respect to student involvement in College decision-making procedures.

"I'm disappointed in the 25 percent voter turnout," said Smith. Smith's campaign emphasized the critical importance of the

student body in institutional decision making.

"I'm just excited to get to work and start making things happen," he added.

Following the election, Benson was supportive of Smith's election.

"I am excited to see where the year goes and to see Barrett work for his goals," wrote Benson in an email.

A total of 666 ballots were cast in the election, just slightly higher than the 622 votes cast in the SCOCC election in 2010.

Smith will join Dean of the College Shirley Collado and the other members of the Community Council in the organization's first board meeting on Monday Oct. 1. The meetings are open to all students.

First-Year Senator election results were also announced on Tuesday. Graham Shaw '16 and Hasher Nisar '16 won the two open positions with 68 and 61 votes, respectively.

Shaw and Nisar beat opponents Roy Wang '16 and J Whelan '16 by a significant margin. Wang received 35 votes and Whelan finished with 30 votes.

The First-Year Senators will now attend all SGA meetings and represent the interests of the first-year class.



# Students take on Spartan adventure race

By Conor Grant

On Sept. 22 and Sept. 23, participants of all ages lined up in Killington, Vt. to test their mettle in the Spartan Race, one of the world's most physically demanding adventure races.

Adventure races, or expedition races, are an increasingly popular type of race in which participants run, jump, climb and swim their way past a variety of increasingly difficult obstacles. Spartan Races are a particularly high-octane type of adventure race that challenge participants with a grueling array of physical and psychological trials.

These races can range in distance from only a few miles to many dozens of miles, and some can be completed in a few short hours while others may take days. Depending on the race, contestants take the field as individuals or as members of a team. All Spartan Courses are different due to their distinct topography.

Participants at the Killington event registered for either the 13-mile "Spartan Beast," which involved a single circuit of roughly 13 miles, or the inhuman "Spartan Ultra Beast Marathon," the world's first marathon-length adventure obstacle course which involved two complete circuits. The main Killington course was more than 13 miles in length and pitted participants against more than 14 obstacles, including inclined walls, mud trenches, barbed-wire crawls, cargo net climbs and numerous bodies of water.

"The hardest [obstacle] was the traverse," said Chris Batson '13, one 12 participants sponsored by the Middlebury Mountain Club to compete in the race. "It was a rope suspended over a really big pool of water and you have to shimmy, just using your arms and legs crossed over the rope."

The race was designed to evoke a "Spartan" aesthetic, and a number of race officials monitored the obstacles to ensure that all participants completed the various challenges before moving

on. The obstacles were designed to lend themselves to the Spartan motif, and they were largely adapted from military training techniques. Those who failed at a particular obstacle were required to complete 30 burpees, which involved quickly going from a standing position to a squatting position, a pushup position, and ultimately a jumping jack position.

"When you looked up the hill everyone was covered in mud, carrying sandbags up the hill," said race participant Katie McFarren '14. "It really did look a military training camp."

The 13-mile course wound up and down the steep ski trails of Killington resort, taking racers up and down the mountain numerous times and exacting a serious physical toll on the participants.

"The biggest challenge for me — coming from Illinois where it's flat — is that they make us go up and down the mountain four or five times," said Max Hoffman '14, an accomplished marathoner. "It was just vertical at points. It was harder than the marathon."

Adding to the dizzying array of obstacles and the daunting series of steep ascents and descents, Spartan Race rules require that all participants complete the race unsupported, meaning that the racers must all provide their own sources of water and calories. Since the race takes most participants more than five hours, refueling is crucial to the successful completion of the race.

"You're out there five hours, so you need something to keep you going," said McFarren.

Athletes must strike a delicate balance when deciding how much food and water to bring with them; those who bring too little risk dehydration and fatigue while those who bring too much risk sluggishness and ruined provisions. The highly demanding physical obstacles also have a tendency to destroy certain types of snacks.

"I brought crackers which got pulverized when I was climbing under the



John Wyman '14, Max Hoffman '14 and Katie McFarren '14 completed the race.

MAX HOFFMAN

barbed wire," said McFarren. "Also, I brought fruit leather. I would recommend bringing waterproof snacks. The fruit leather was perfect."

Despite the intensity of the racecourse, the atmosphere remained festive and the racers were all incredibly supportive of one another.

"I met a lot of cool people who were really interested in having a conversation and just chatting," said McFarren. "It was cool because all of the strangers would help you up the walls if you needed help. It was a really friendly competition."

Although Marc Andre Benard, the first person to finish the race, clocked in at 3:17:27, most participants took between five and eight hours to complete the race. According to Hoffman and McFarren, there were plenty of participants who were not in peak physical shape,

and they seemed to enjoy the race just as much as the Olympic-caliber racers. There were more than a thousand people in attendance, and there were plenty of sponsored tents and activities for children, including the Vermont High School Challenge and the Spartan Kids Race.

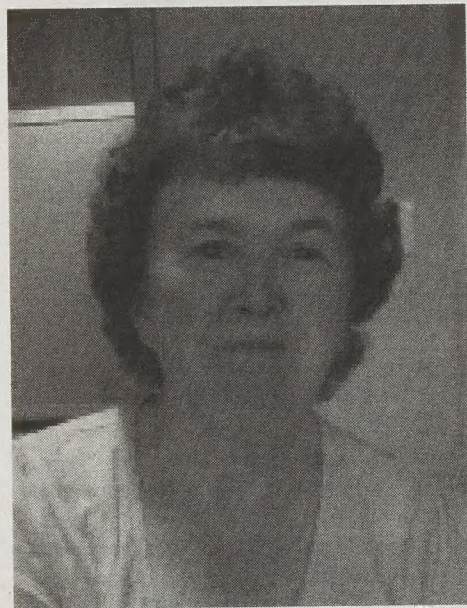
"It was a big production," said Batson. "It was a big festival that had all of these food vendors, shoe vendors and beer companies in tents."

Despite the many other diversions offered at the racecourse, the weekend revolved around the race. Contestants walked away with a T-shirt, varying degrees of bragging rights and sore calves, but most seemed eager to get back out as soon as their aching bodies would allow.

"Everyone that does it wants to do it again and again and again," said McFarren. "I definitely want to do the one in the spring."

## ONE IN 8,700

Where the personalities of Middlebury proper are celebrated



Margaret Brande loves her job in Dining Services.

By Winnie Yeung

Middlebury students enjoy a uniquely flexible and varied dining experience. Unhindered by a restrictive meal plan, students can come and go as the please during the morning, afternoon and evening and enjoy freshly prepared arranged foods from a variety of fresh local sources. Every day, students can choose from a colorful array of produce that includes local fruits, vegetables, dairy products and other items. Dining services use food from 47 fresh, local sources

to put together a varied menu for the students. This cornucopia makes it easy for students to overlook the many hard-working dining services employees that go to great lengths to provide them with a top notch dining experience.

One of these tireless employees is Margaret Brande. A 5'2" woman with a gentle smile, she grew up in the southern part of Ireland before moving to London for better job opportunities. While living in London with friends she met her future husband, a native Vermonter, and the couple moved to Vermont in November 1974.

Brande was initially apprehensive about the move, but she quickly adapted to her new life in Vermont thanks to the strikingly similar natural features that she found in Middlebury.

"[There are] lots of greens, lots of trees," said Brande. "They remind me of Ireland."

Brande came to feel at home in the green pastures and mountains of Vermont, and was soon busy looking after her two children, who ended up unintentionally leading her into the catering industry. While her children attended Cornwall Elementary School, Brande got involved at the school and initiated a lunch program where she single-handedly managed lunch services for 120 people. She planned the menu with a limited budget from the government, cooked every day and distributed lunch boxes to

each student. When her children graduated from high school, she decided to try something different.

"I was looking for change," said Brande. "I [was] looking for adults — not kids. So I was looking for Middlebury College, and I landed a job!"

In no time, her Middlebury career took off. She started as a café barrista at the rehearsal café on the ground floor of the Kevin P. Mahaney Center for the Arts, and then worked at the Grille. She currently works in Proctor dining hall at the language tables in the Redfield Proc-

### MARGARET BRANDE Dining Services

tor Dining Room during weekdays. Despite the long days she spends in Proctor, Brande loves her work.

"I love working in the dining [halls]," said Brande. "It's fast-paced, it's always on the go. You see different students, which is fun. I have the best boss in the world and the best colleagues that you can ever ask for."

She enjoys having conversations with different students over the course of her workday, and works hard to make sure that they are satisfied with their meals. In fact, Brande views students as more than just customers and strives to

accommodate their particular situations and needs.

"These are students who are in a hurry, who try to eat between classes," said Brande. "We help them to keep them full and stay in great shape for classes."

Brande said she enjoys interacting with students and takes mental notes of all the small gestures through which students show their appreciation.

"Students are really appreciative of what we are doing," said Brande. "When they ask for something, they say 'please,' when we help them to get something, they say 'thank you very much.' That is nice."

Brande sees the dining hall as something of a cultural intersection — a place where students and faculty from diverse backgrounds can get together and exchange ideas and have meaningful conversations. Another benefit she described was having the opportunity to reach out to people from all regions, states and countries.

"That is what college life is about," said Brande. "Sitting with different people and meet[ing] those kinds of people that you have never met before. ... I consider myself international and people [here] are from all different states and countries. To me [it] is interesting [to] ... try to get to know where [different people] are from and what their place is like, so you can know more about the world."



# Van Jones inspires at VNRC 50th Anniversary

By Isaac Baker

Last Saturday, Sept. 22, students rode north to Shelburne Farms to mingle with some of the state's and the nation's strongest environmental voices — including celebrated author and environmental activist Van Jones — all in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC).

The VNRC is primarily an environmental advocacy group that has organized coalitions and ecological experts to influence the vast majority of the environmental legislation coming out of Montpelier, Vt.

After an hour of enjoying local fare provided by an array of Vermont farmers and eateries, the lights flickered and everyone moved from the dining area to the large tent where VNRC leaders and Jones were set to speak.

Executive Director Brian Shupe started off the evening with an exhaustive list of thank you's, a few words about VNRC and a vision of the next era of environmental work.

"As we move into our next 50 years," said Shupe, "we're looking at a political environment that is increasingly contentious. We're looking at the role and influence of money in our political process, and [our] collective voice is going to be ever more important for Vermont."

Governor Peter Shumlin followed Shupe at the podium, making clear his opinion on policy in Vermont relating to the environment.

"As a kid born and raised in the state, I understand ... that those who try to divide the preservation of our extraordinary natural resources with jobs and job creation do so at our future's peril," said Shumlin.

This intersection between a strong economy and a strong environment underlined Shumlin's entire speech and informed his continued advocacy for green jobs in the state.

"There is a reason," he said, "why the United States Department of Labor statistics identified eight weeks ago that Vermont has more green, clean, high-tech jobs per capita than any other state in the nation."

With 23 million Americans still out of work and generally uncertain economic

times ahead, both Shumlin and Jones zeroed in on the economy, focusing on attitudes and practices, environmental and otherwise, that brought us to this present predicament.

"The last economy didn't just fail the planet, it failed the people, too," said Jones during his keynote address. "You in Vermont are building the next economy, not just for yourselves, but as an example to the whole world."

"We have to take [the] position that America's future is not down those holes," he continued, referring to fossil fuels like coal or crude oil being mined from the earth. "If you want to see the future, look up! Look at the sun! Look at the wind!"

Technologies like photovoltaic arrays and wind turbines are the cornerstones of the economically-strong and ecologically-sound future that Jones has envisioned and shared with the audience.

"How do we have an economy that works?" asked Jones. "You go back to production, you go back to making things, building rather than borrowing, you go back to thrift, you go back to ecological restoration; there's a word for that: it's called the Green Economy."

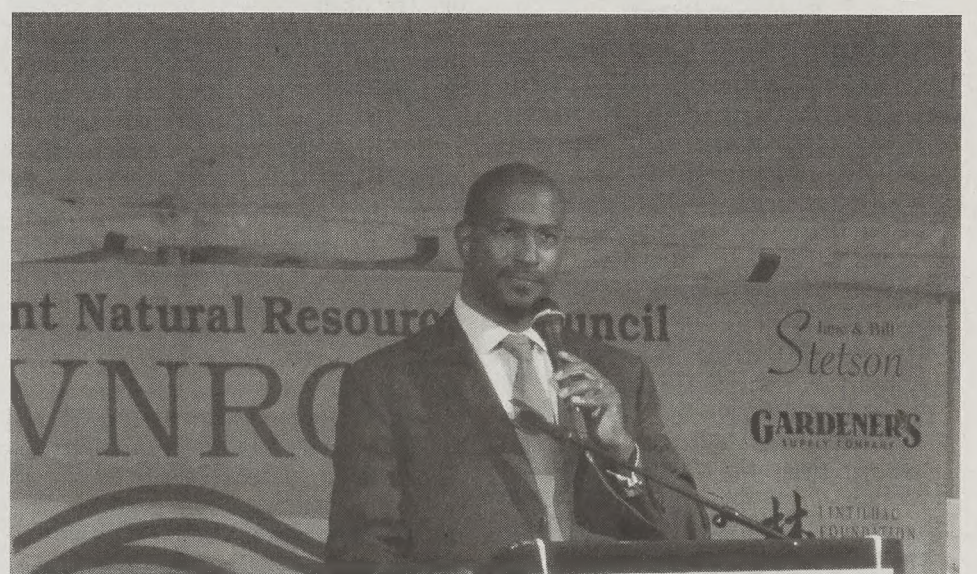
**"The last economy didn't just fail the planet, it failed the people too."**

**VAN JONES  
AUTHOR, ACTIVIST**

"We're essentially studying social change, social movements and those two other concepts," said Isham. "When we heard Van was going to be coming to town, I assigned his first book to the class and they read it."

Having worked through Jones' *The Green Collar Economy*, the class had the honor of drafting questions for the questions and answers portion of the evening as a follow up to his speech.

An affiliate of the VNRC offered the first student question, which pressed Jones on the political side of his career, drawing on his brief experience as adviser to President Barack Obama on green jobs.



Van Jones offers a moving speech to VNRC members and supporters.

JEREMY READ

"The question was," said Isham, "how do we put pressure on the Obama White House?"

To answer this question, Jones invited Schumann Distinguished Scholar Bill McKibben from his place in the audience to help answer the question.

"You don't understand how hard it is to stand up in that town," said Jones, by way of introduction. "Nobody had ever been willing to do a sit-in anywhere near the White House with Obama there because we love him so much; there was a fear that it would be hard for him, [but] this man said no. First, we have to do right by our children."

McKibben took the stage to resounding applause, spurred by the memory of his work through 350.org in Washington, D.C. last fall when he organized a human chain surrounding the White House protesting the Keystone XL pipeline.

"A big part of making any progress," said McKibben, "is getting rid of the dead hand of the fossil fuel industry."

For McKibben, the influence that money derived from fossil fuels has held in American politics is far too great and has halted any advances that policy makers, including Obama, might like to make in expanding environmental regulation.

Much of the financial backing for these giant corporations, however, comes from

sources closer to home.

"We can't have Middlebury College and UVM investing their endowments in fossil fuel companies," said McKibben, directly referencing two schools that had sent students to the event.

"We need to invest in the future," he added. "The night after the election, we kick off this road show, all over the country, 25 cities in 25 nights, trying to spark this full on assault on fossil fuels."

Students in SNG and members of the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) club are aware of this divestment campaign, as McKibben has titled it, and hope to align some of their efforts this fall with this push.

"I was really inspired," said Cody Gohl '13, a contributor to SNG for the last two years. "I think that at an age when activism is something everyone wants to be doing, we're [also] facing roadblocks with money and time and getting people energized ... It's really great to hear people talk about how there is still hope."

Jeannie Bartlett '15, member of both SNG and SRI, spoke to her interest in encouraging the school to match its actions with its stated values.

"Especially in light of Middlebury's pledge to be carbon neutral," said Bartlett, "it's a perfect fit to join McKibben's divestment campaign to move off of fossil fuels."

## Connecting with Community

Some of the many ways Middlebury students get involved in the surrounding area

By Adam Sawamura

I never thought much about food until I realized that many members of our society spend much time and energy worrying about where their next meal might come from.

I grew up shopping the aisles of the supermarket, plentifully stocked with every food imaginable. I would fill up the cart, and with the swipe of a credit card, the food was mine. This experience, however, is not universal, and it blinded me in two very important ways to a broader understanding of food and food systems.

This past summer, I interned as coordinator of the Addison County Gleaning Program, based at HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects) in Middlebury. My charge was to connect with both farmers and vulnerable populations in Addison County to help alleviate food insecurity through gleaning, which is the practice of harvesting surplus or second-rate crops from local farms and distributing them to low-income, food-insecure members of the community.

Until my work with HOPE, I had rarely stopped to consider how, where or by whom the food I ate was grown. My understanding of the life cycle of fruits and vegetables began and ended at the refrigerated produce cases of my local grocery store. This summer, however, I spent much time on local farms, learning the ins and outs of small-scale diversified agriculture, seeing for the first time how vegetables are grown. It was illuminating.

At the same time, I had never realized the extent to which the grocery store, a symbol of American abundance, is off-limits to many in our society.

I passed many hours in the HOPE office interacting with clients whose main source of fresh produce is the Gleaning Program. During this time, I heard firsthand stories of people in Addison County who face poverty, food-insecurity, drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness and homelessness, among a whole host of other issues. Interactions based in this physical desperation (lacking food, housing, money) are raw and true and haunting.

During this internship, I met people who walk into the office, throw up their hands and say, "I've got nothing. How can you help me?"

To stare into the eyes of a desperate person is a unique and heartbreakingly unforgettable experience.

The reasons that bring people to seek assistance vary: someone loses a job due to company budget cuts; another person's hours get cut; a third person's full-time minimum-wage job isn't enough to support a family. Some are sick or disabled, and medical bills are too expensive. They fall behind on rent payments, car payments and utility bills. There's no money for gas to go look for a job. The electricity is shut off. The landlord finally puts her foot down and says, "You've got to pay or move out." Some live in tents in the woods or in their car, if they have one. Many can't afford food.

These are the stories that made me realize both the importance and the severe limitations of my internship. As a gleaner, I was in a position to provide nutrition to members of my community whose financial hardship denies them access to healthy foods.

The fruits and vegetables I brought in, thanks to local farmers, provided nourishment. Beyond simply filling empty stomachs, food gives people energy to help themselves, to concentrate and perform well at work, to stay in good health, to feed children the wholesome food necessary for their still-developing brains (much better than cheaper but more readily available processed foods). For this reason, I feel that my work was important.

My interactions with our clients also helped me recognize that programs like this gleaning internship are only temporary measures taken while individuals work to turn their lives around, or while change occurs on a broader societal level to work against the root causes of poverty and hunger.

My job was important because it prevented people from going hungry while we work toward a solution, but it in itself is not the solution. This dual perspective — understanding both the significance and the limitations of my position — was a good motivation and a necessary reality check.

E-mail GleanAddison@gmail.com to get involved or to learn more about the Addison County Gleaning Program.

## LOCAL LOWDOWN 24

### Ride, Roast and Rock! in Middlebury

Live music from the Horse Traders, a pig roast, and a bike tour are featured in this rousing fundraiser to benefit Addison Central Teens. Information, sponsorship forms and registration forms available at ACT, 94 Main Street in Middlebury or <http://addisonteens.com>.

\$10 for all-you-can-eat meal and music, \$25 for bike tour

SEPT. 29, 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

### Barn Dance in Brandon

Watch the final installment of the "What's Hatching in Brandon?" series sponsored by the Brandon Artists' Guild and participate in the contra dance. The event will also include a silent auction.

\$10 general admission

For more information call 802-247-6401

SEPT. 29, 7 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

### Chicken and Biscuits Dinner

A chicken and biscuits dinner is being hosted in the West Addison Community House by the women of the West Addison Methodist Church. The fare is all-you-can-eat and also includes homemade apple and pumpkin pie, Cabot cheese, and home-made pickles.

\$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12.

SEPT. 30, 12:30 P.M. - 4 P.M.



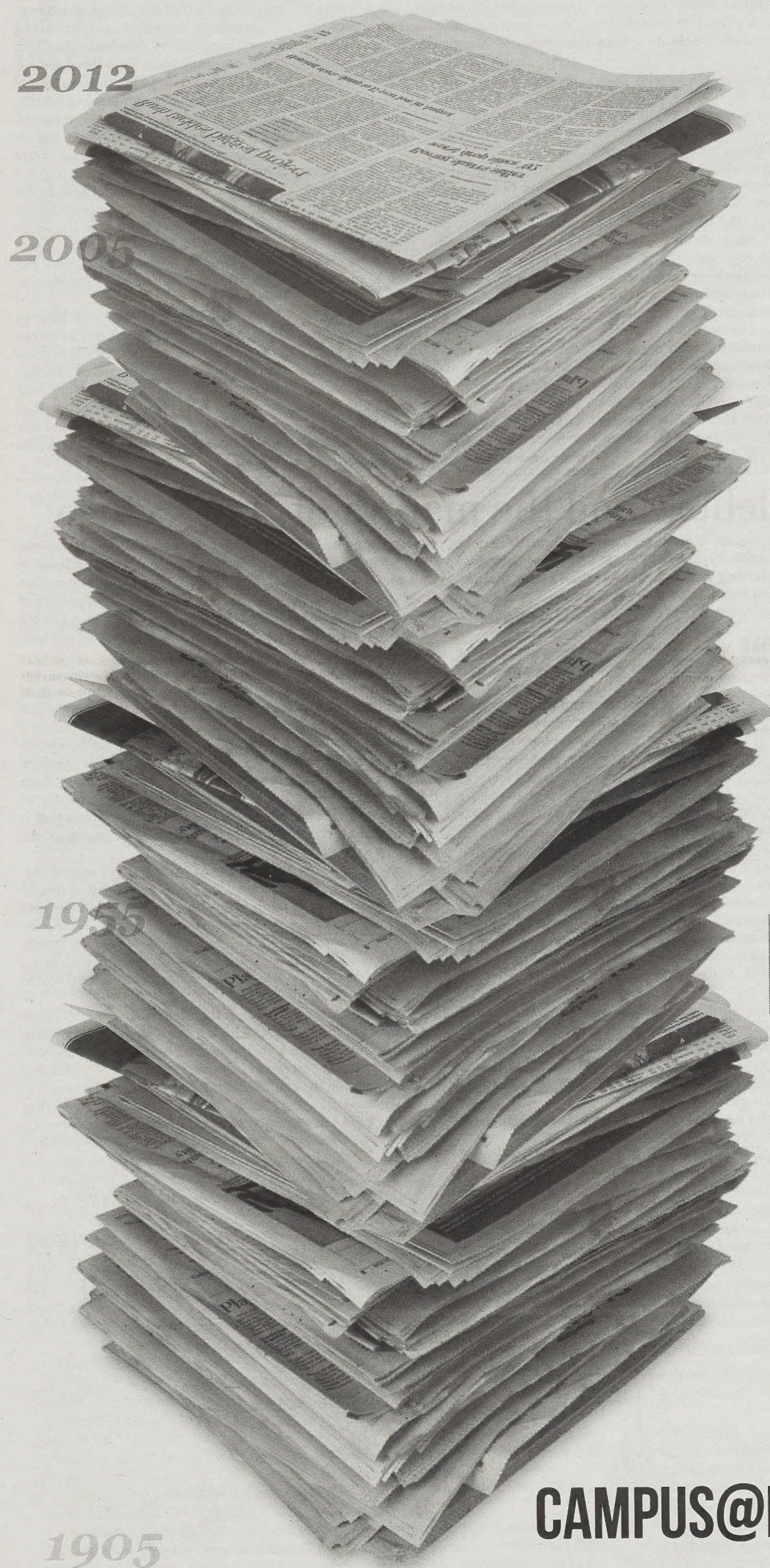
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# OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

This past Saturday night, approximately 100 students flocked to the McCullough Student Center for Jamnesty, an event co-hosted by Verbal Onslaught

## EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* as decided by the editorial board.

in America.

We applaud Rana Abdelhamid '15 and Barbara Ofosu-Somuah '13, along

The Middlebury Campus

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## A call for collaboration

with the other hosts of Jamnesty, for their use of art — a medium that is so often focused on solely the performers — to explore issues of great importance. Jamnesty successfully combined the draw of arts with the importance of activism to create an event that brought together many typically disparate groups of students.

If you look at posters around campus or eavesdrop on dinnertime conversations, it is evident that Middlebury students care about social issues such as racial injustice. However, many of these important conversations take place in completely separate spheres.

People say that Middlebury is a bubble. However, the truth is that our bubble may be even smaller — many students spend the majority of their time with close friends or certain clubs or teams. Our conversations and our views shared amongst these groups are important, but they will not be heard at full volume until we open ourselves up to new audiences. We can use our diversity of voices and views as a powerful tool, but this power can only truly flourish if we have these conversations together. As the success of Jamnesty demonstrates, collaboration is key.

We have seen other instances of such collaboration this year. For example, many on-campus environmental groups — Campus Sustainability Coordinators, Solar Decathlon and Socially Responsible Investment Club, to name a few — have all come together under the umbrella of “Green Poodle” to promote their shared goals of environmental awareness and sustainability. We encourage more of this type of collaboration, and feel that it is necessary in order to strengthen the power of the student voice.

That being said, collaboration does not have to take place solely among similar individuals or groups. Part of what made Jamnesty so powerful was the fact that it brought together performance art and activism — often relegated to separate spheres — to promote a common goal.

We encourage Middlebury students to go even further. We challenge you to collaborate not only with those in separate bubbles, but also with those whom you most disagree. As just one example, while we applaud College Democrats and College Republicans for working together to promote MiddVote, we believe that their collaboration should not stop

there. Why not hold public debates? Expressing an opinion to a group of like-minded individuals can only get you so far. It is only when these opinions are brought out of the echo chamber and into the open that real change can occur.

Jamnesty exhibited another benefit to collaboration by demonstrating that there are numerous ways to express a message. The College does a great job of bringing speakers to campus and hosting lectures. However, a lecture or a speech is not the only way to convey a powerful message. After sitting in class or the library all day, it is often hard to find the motivation to attend another lecture, no matter how important or interesting the issue. This fact was evident at the Alcohol lecture, which only a handful of students attended, even though alcohol use is an issue that affects most students at the College.

We encourage students to look to the strong turnout at Jamnesty as an example of how creative outlets of expression can be successful means of communication. Increased collaboration will strengthen our voice by ensuring that our opinions go beyond the walls of our individual silos. It's time to start working together.

## Middlebury and the mantra of “I’m so busy”

Those three words, those three damnable words: “I’m so busy” or its common mutations “I’m too busy” and “I have so much to do!” Assuming you’ve spent more than a week on campus, you’ve heard this phrase at least once. As a senior, I’ve heard it countless times; I’ve used it myself on more than a few occasions. But after my semester abroad and the beginning of this semester, I’ve acquired a potent distaste for the words and, even more so, what they lead to.

## NOTES FROM THE DESK

*Santiago Azpurua-Borras '13 is an arts & science editor from Caracas, Venezuela*

Imagine that you and your friends sit down for a meal at the beloved Ross dining hall. The colorful oval plates are filled to the edges with dishes that have been combined with previous days’ dishes to create a new offering, and perhaps a slice

of pizza. The descending light of the sun gently hits your glass of the sweet nectar that is Ross Watta. As you’re enjoying both the meal and the company of your loved ones, you hear it — that first sentence that begins the descent into madness: “I have SO MUCH to do this week,” followed by the inevitable checklist conjured by the Great Old One himself; “I have TWO exams and FOUR papers this week, not to mention ALL of the clubs I do.”

Usually, nothing happens until someone inevitably follows up with: “Yeah, that sucks, I have THREE exams this week, FIVE papers due on Friday AND I have to write an article for the *Campus*.”

This won’t stop until everyone has had a turn. It will end when the one person who does so much around campus, who has so much work and so many extracurricular — a person who is rarely seen without the sort of twisted medal of honor that is their physical and emotional exhaustion, dictates their to-do list and “wins” this game.

And let's face it — when this situation arises, it definitely

becomes a game. We’ve all seen this outside of Middlebury as well, when misery quickly becomes a sought after commodity that allows you to somehow one-up friends and peers. But what is the reward? Some eschewed sense of validation? Superiority?

The truth is, these little, “Who has it rougher” matches are nothing more than a game, and in this game, even if you win, you all still lose.

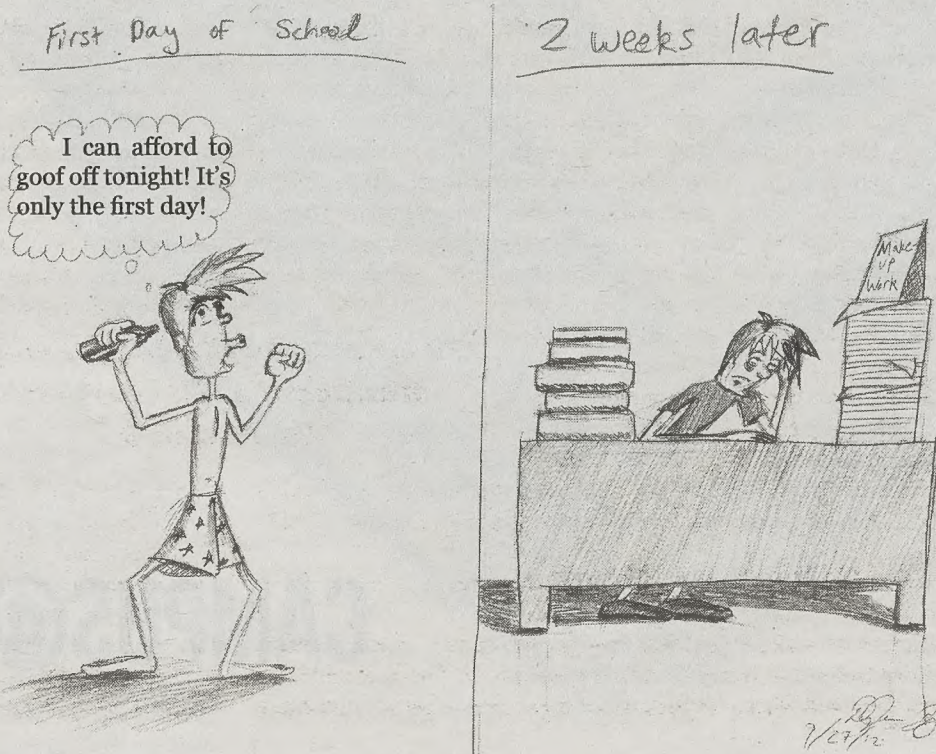
What annoys me the most about this phenomenon is that “I’m too busy” eventually becomes an excuse. It can be used as an excuse to not try new things or for when someone just doesn’t want to say “no.”

I can most certainly see the appeal; we are all busy, so using that magic word will create an almost instant sense of solidarity. And I get it — sometimes one is just too busy to do things. What annoys me is when people use this mantra as some cheap ticket of self-validation, telling themselves that if they work harder than others, their actions or inactions are somehow validated.

Instead of using the mantra of “busy” as an excuse, we should be using it as a foundation to help establish informal interpersonal webs of support for one another. I believe that Middlebury isn’t an easy experience for anyone — no matter what he or she will tell you — and instead of turning it into some game, we should use our business as the glue that keeps us all together. The people on this campus are, in my humble opinion, the best thing about this place.

Someone has a lot of papers this week? Offer them a fresh set of eyes and perspective to look it over. Help your roommate with the midterm with a small quizzing session. Basically, just try to do whatever you can to help your fellow man — assuming it all stays within the confines of the Honor Code, of course.

So instead of saying “I can’t, I’m too busy,” let’s try offering “I am busy, but I’m willing to make the effort and time for you.”



BY DYLAN LEVY



# THE ISLAMIC THOUGHT POLICE

In November 2004, a 26 year-old Dutch-Moroccan man named Mohammed Bouyeri ambushed filmmaker Theo Van Gogh as he rode his bike to work. Bouyeri shot the filmmaker eight times with a handgun and attempted to decapitate him with a large knife. Death was the sentence Van Gogh earned for directing a movie that criticized Islam's treatment of women.

## APPLY LIBERALLY

Zach Dallmeyer-Drennen '13.5 is from Canadaigua, N.Y.

In both 2005 and 2007, European journalists that published cartoons featuring likenesses of Mohammed were met with death threats. In April 2010, Comedy Central censored images of Mohammed, bleeped out his name and — ironically — cut a final speech about standing up to intimidation and fear from an episode of South Park, in part because of death threats against the show's writers.

A few weeks ago, a poorly made YouTube trailer for a movie called "The Innocence of Muslims" that distastefully portrays the prophet as a bloodthirsty pedophile hit the Internet. Again, the mobs have spoken. Again, there are bodies in the street as the civilizing principles of decency and diplomatic immunity are gleefully discarded. In Libya, the United States ambassador was killed along with three American soldiers. In Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia, crowds attacked American embassies. In Sudan, a giant mob — apparently lacking either an American target or a map — stormed the German embassy. Nineteen people died in riots in Pakistan when rioters stoned a KFC restaurant and torched a church. Two American soldiers were killed in Afghanistan. Even here in Australia, a mob in downtown Sydney attacked police officers with thrown rocks and clenched fists, chanting "Obama, Obama, we love Osama," in a chorus of support for the tragic murder of 3,000 innocent American men, women and children just over 11 years ago. In the same protest, a five year-old girl held a poster that called for the beheading of those who would offend the prophet. All over a YouTube clip.

Freedom includes the freedom to offend. The trailer was absurd, inaccurate and embarrassing — the disgusting product of an immature mind. But we cannot bow to a world where bad satire leads to the death of diplomats. When we censor

a picture — or a word — the radicals exert control over our way of life.

There are those who claim that radical Islam has been so successful because of oppressive governments and poor economic opportunities. This merely shifts the blame, suggesting democracy as a cure-all for the world's problems. But look at what happened with the Palestinian Territories. Look at Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. The oppressive regimes are gone, but radical Islam remains stronger than ever. Political oppression is no more the culprit today than it was during the Crusades, the Inquisition or the Salem Witch Trials.

Radical Islam is a threat to liberty because it can tolerate no such thing. It is a strain of religion that says that women are inferior — and ensures that they remain so by rendering them invisible and indistinguishable. It says that drawing or criticizing its prophet is a sin and kills those who would dare attempt such a thing. It considers itself infallible and punishes by death those who would leave the faith for any reason. It threatens, bullies, intimidates and explodes. There is little else comparable in the modern world. Radicals of any religion are a dangerous breed, but if a Saudi citizen mocked Jesus on the Internet, Christians wouldn't storm the walls of Saudi Arabia's Washington embassy and murder their diplomats. When the creators of South Park brought their mockery of the Mormon faith to Broadway, nobody lost his head.

Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti responded to the riots by calling for their end even as he condemned the video and called upon the United States government to criminalize such content. That's not how freedom works. It's not how our nation works — and it's not how the world should work. As American citizens, our tax dollars pay for a military unparalleled in its reach and its might. That military exists not to conquer nations, but to defend those freedoms that we hold most dear. It's easy to blame the filmmaker, to ask why he would choose to put out such a thing if he was aware of the consequences. Yet even when the content is incorrect and atrocious, that choice — to mock, to criticize and to produce terrible videos — is one that we must protect with every tool in the arsenal of American power. If we fail to do so, we will sink into the sorry company of nations too afraid to stand up to the chorus of those who bully our men, enslave our women and erase our liberty.

**"Radical Islam is a threat to liberty because it can tolerate no such thing."**

# Is it just a gaffe?

Each election year, an overenthusiastic media tries to convince us that a single verbal slip-up can destroy a Presidential campaign. Gaffes are reported endlessly, featured in attack ads, defended and debated, only to retreat from the limelight and be forgotten come Election Day. This year has featured several such gaffes, and now, a leaked video showing Governor Romney speaking off-the-cuff to donors has entered the media frenzy. Romney's comments in the video have been labeled as "devastating," "a rolling calamity," and "an utter disaster" by the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post* and MSNBC, respectively. Bloomberg News even asserted that the video "has killed Mitt Romney's campaign for president." But while the liberal media has blasted the tape, voter polling has remained steady at 47 percent for Obama, 46 percent for Romney.

In the video, Romney asserts that "47 percent of the people ... will vote for the president no matter what ... 47 percent who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it ... these are people who pay no income tax." While this quote grossly simplifies a complex problem, it is true that for various reasons, over 46 percent of American households pay no federal income tax. Nevertheless, I would hope that Romney understands that this 46 percent contains war veterans, college students, retirees and unemployed workers — not just government freeloaders. Also, declaring that this 46 percent will support President Obama "no matter what" is a bizarre exaggeration, as many of these people want jobs and thus want to pay income tax and therefore want a new president who can make that happen.

"We should have enough jobs and enough take-home pay such that people have the privilege of higher incomes that allow them to be paying taxes," Romney later clarified, although he added that he worries many of the 46 percent won't want to contribute their "fair share." This sentiment closely resembles the picture Democrats paint of wealthy Americans as squanderers of wealth — a manipulative argument that divides and defines people based on income and incorrectly implies that America's fiscal problems can be erased if the rich are overtaxed. The class-based views of politics emphasized by both Romney and Obama miss the point that most Americans who don't pay taxes would actually prefer to have a well-paying job that requires them to pay taxes. They also overlook the fact that most middle-class Americans do not begrudge the rich but aspire to become

wealthy themselves.

Finally though, Romney's so-called gaffe isn't a gaffe at all. Rather, it's an ineloquent way of pointing out that nearly half of American households don't pay taxes — a fact that angers most Republicans. We want these people to have jobs, contribute to society and pay taxes; we believe that much of the people within this 46 percent can and should have the means to care for themselves rather than depend on governmental systems for support and security. In the summer, when Obama famously told business owners, "you didn't build that — someone else made that happen," he was ripped apart by Republicans for stating, without bells and whistles, a fundamental principle of the Democratic party: that government helps create the social and economic systems which shape our successes. These "gaffes" are based on truths perceived by one party and fundamentally disagreed with by the other, and I'm glad that these ideological questions are defining the presidential race this year. Did you create your success or did it result from the systems in place around you? Should we be proud that our social and economic security nets allow for 46 percent of Americans to not pay taxes, or should we shrink that percentage through job creation and economic growth?

But sometimes politicians make statements that are neither gaffes nor crudely stated party ideologies. In a speech last week, Obama declared, "the most important lesson I've learned is that you can't change Washington from the inside. You can only change it from the outside ... that's how the big accomplishments like health care got done." This statement illuminates Obama's inefficacy as a leader — he believes that he lacks the power to create change and he acknowledges that "the big accomplishments" of his first term succeeded not through his leadership, but from outside support. Do you want to keep Obama in Washington if he "can only change it from the outside?" This might not be what Obama intended to say, but the political climate in Washington has become so gridlocked that I imagine the president has given up on the American political system — just as many young Americans have. I do not blame Obama for this standoff, but it's clear that Democrats and Republicans have failed to work together as they did during the Clinton-Gingrich era. If Obama believes that he "can't change Washington from the inside," then how can he combat this dysfunction?

## THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Ben Kinney '15 is from Seattle, Wash.

# JV sports: who knew?

I am proud to say that I have discovered the best kept secret on campus. A new panini to be made at Proctor? No. An uncovered secret society? No. Give up? Some people in this situation would say "I would tell you, but I would have to kill you." But, don't worry, I will be generous. Drum roll please ... JV sports.

JV sports are the middle child of Middlebury. The lost sock. The Midwest.

## READER OP-ED

Emilie Munson '16 is from Duxbury, Mass.

You may be scoffing at this notion, but take a minute to think about it. JV sports do not have a table at the activities fair. They do not send out harassing emails. They do not cover the dining halls in recruiting posters emblazoned with embarrassing photos captioned with quotes like "Don't you want to be like us?" Nor do their members wander the dorms spontaneously serenading anyone with their door open.

Despite these perks, searching for mention of JV sports on the Middlebury website is like hunting for buried treasure. Based on some personal research, the most explicit reference to a JV sports team is a link on the women's soccer page denoting a B Team. Hidden deep in the "About the Program" sections of women's lacrosse and men's soccer is also a mention of a B Team. No other sports' websites acknowledge the presence of a JV program.

So how does one discover the secret cult of JV sports? It seems to all come down to word of mouth.

While this is a truth that may work out just fine for upperclassmen, word of mouth does not always trickle down to Battell. It can be rather problematic for ignorant first-years that are trying to get involved with activities on campus when they do not know

**"JV sports are the middle child of Middlebury. The lost sock. The Midwest."**

what their options are. To further aggravate this issue of getting involved is the fact that not only does the existence of JV sports circulate via gossip, but so does information about how and when to try out. All in all, it is a practice that is preventing people from playing the sports that they love.

The word-of-mouth phenomenon of JV sports is also having a detrimental effect on the JV teams themselves. It is fairly safe to say that nearly every student on campus, male and female, knows that the JV Field Hockey team is desperate for players. In past years, the team fielded approximately 15 players and was able to play other club and JV teams from local schools competitively. This year, eight girls turned out for the first day of practice. Though the team has made strides thanks to a now rather infamous recruiting email, it will now merely be playing pickup games a few nights a week with no outside-of-Middlebury matches. It is frustrating to see the team suffer in this way and know that this problem could have been largely avoided.

The 21st century is by all accounts an age of communication. Across the globe, people are able to converse and share ideas thanks to the wonders of the World Wide Web. Never has it been easier to send a message to a group of people, even as large as the Middlebury student body. Therefore, is it too much to ask for a JV sports shout-out on the Athletics page or an email blast announcing their presence and how to participate at the beginning of the semester?

The responsibility should not fall on the athletic department but on members of the JV teams themselves. These teams need to take a leaf from the book *Horton Hears a Who* and make a declaration: "We are here! We are here!" If they don't, Junior Varsity may be converted to Just Vanished.



# Preventing cheating culture

Although cheating at Middlebury sometimes feels like a non-issue — or at least, a non-discussed issue — last month's events at Harvard have sparked an important conversation.

In its biggest case of cheating in recent memory, Harvard announced in late August that it was investigating over 100 undergraduate students for allegedly committing "academic dishonesty" on a take-home final exam. While some of these students plagiarized outright from the class readings, many others turned in almost identical papers, evidently collaborating with their peers — an act explicitly forbidden in the professor's instructions.

Harvard being Harvard, this scandal has prompted important conversations throughout academia about the causes of cheating, changes in cheating culture and how to deal with dishonesty in today's ever-competitive and high-tech university setting. While some of these discussions have been constructive, I've found them largely disappointing; rarely do they broach the two central roots of the scandal at hand — class entitlement and academic stress.

While discussing the recent Harvard scandal in one of my classes, many of my classmates excused the act of cheating in academia as "just something people need to do to get ahead in this economy" and "a part of life."

Numerous other friends that I've talked to expressed similar opinions, saying that the Harvard students' overburdened workload almost made cheating a necessity for post-college success.

As a fellow classmate and a Student Wellness Leader (SWL) on campus, I find these discussions both concerning and alerting. When I hear Middlebury students echo the Harvard student response that they had at least some "right" to cheat, I cannot help but recognize this as an issue of class entitlement. As scholars at an elite institution, we Middkids

sometimes think, "We pay to go here; therefore, we deserve to get good grades for our transcripts and our futures, no matter how we get them."

And those who get in our way — in this case, professors and the institution that aim to punish academic dishonesty — receive criticism and blame. One Harvard student told *Salon* that Harvard is just "out for blood" to protect its own reputation, that in fact students were "being scapegoated." Another told the *New York Times*, "They're threatening people's futures. Having my degree revoked now would mean I lose my job." As a result, many Harvard students have already gotten lawyers and are preparing to sue the college, the professors and the course's teaching fellows.

Talk about entitlement! The students explicitly violated the rule of the exam. In any other "real world" context, such a violation would be strictly punishable by law — no excuses. We as elite college students generally accept that lawbreakers must be punished, but we don't hold always ourselves to the same standards.

For example, take the gas station worker who steals 50 dollars from the cash register — do we excuse her from legal repercussions simply because she needed it to get ahead in this tough economy? Is it just a "part of life?" I'd guess that most Middlebury students would have no problem with her legal punishment for cheating at a gas station job — so why the strong defense of cheating students?

To be sure, I do not mean that all Middlebury and Harvard students have no morals. I know for a fact that we as a student body hold strong ethical values, expressed from immigration and human rights symposiums to dedication to community volunteerism. So again I wonder, why are we defending the Harvard students?

While class entitlement accounts for one part, there is

another crucial wellness issue at play here: stress. Academic stress, along with time management, is a central cause of cheating, yet few people make the connection until it's too late. It's often not the morally corrupt person that decides to cheat, but the desperate, sleep-deprived student who doubts her ability to get all her work done. This type of student, as Erika and Nicholas Christakis (both faculty members at Harvard) describe, is "prone to panic and self-doubt ... these students become so worried about failure that they lose perspective and fail to see obvious alternatives to cheating like asking for help before things get out of control."

Such tunnel vision, they continue, "takes on a toxicity that inhibits resilience in the face of disappointment."

We also face much stress, but this stress should not serve as an excuse. Instead, once we've recognized the essential link between high stress and cheating, we must act to prevent both. There are a number of resources here that aim to help students manage their time and stress, from CTLR [Center for Teaching, Learning and Research] tutoring to meditation sessions to puppy hours to commons advising. We are lucky to have a faculty and staff support system that works to counsel students on time-management. We should take advantage of these resources. Better to take the hour to discuss your schedule with your adviser than to disobey the honor code pledge you took your first week here. Rather than blame your professor for making the instructions unclear, talk to her about them. As we all know, communication is key.

While there is no shame in asking for help from available faculty, there is — and must continue to be — shame in cheating. Instead of excusing college cheaters in the name of the competitive economy and necessary collaboration, the conversation around cheating must become one of preventative measures and preserving integrity.

## TAKE CARE

Caroline Kahlenberg '14 is from Bethesda, Md.

**"... Once we've recognized the essential link between high stress and cheating, we must act to prevent both."**

## The right's race issue

The day that Barack Obama became the nation's first African American President is one that will forever live in our history books. Many Americans felt a sense of pride due to our ugly history filled with slavery, discrimination and hatred towards

### READER OP-ED

Will Schwartz '16 is from Bryn Mawr, Penn.

African Americans and many other minority groups. Even before Obama was inaugurated, neo-conservative Rush Limbaugh stated "I hope he fails."

Obama and many other Americans of minority backgrounds became the target of visceral lies charged with blatant racism and xenophobia. The Tea Party has become obsessed with claiming Obama was born in Kenya and therefore not eligible to be President. Despite the mounting evidence against their ridiculous claims, Maricopa County [Ariz.] Sheriff Joe Arpaio wasted tax dollars to go down to Hawaii to try to find evidence to support his "birther" claims. Factcheck.org provided a strong analysis against the "birther" theory in August 2008.

FactCheck.org staffers have now seen, touched, examined and photographed the original birth certificate. It has been concluded that the certificate does indeed meet all of the requirements from the State Department for proving U.S. citizenship. Claims that the document lacks a raised seal or a signature are false. The conclusion: Obama was born in the United States, just as he has always said.

"No one's ever asked to see my birth certificate. They know that this is the place where both of us were born and raised."

Those were the words Mitt Romney spoke in his home state of Michigan, as he attempted to fire up the conservative base that has criticized his conservative credentials. Mitt Romney is one of many Republicans to make racist comments towards President Obama, and other members of minority groups.

Rick Santorum was quoted as saying, "I don't want to make black people's lives better by giving them somebody else's money; I want to give them the opportunity to go out and earn the money."

Representative Sally Kern (R-Oklahoma City) stated, "We have a high percentage of blacks in prison, and that's tragic, but are they in prison just because they are black or because they don't want to study as hard in school? I've taught school, and

I saw a lot of people of color who didn't study hard because they said the government would take care of them."

When confronted by MSNBC's Chris Matthews on the issue of Republicans playing the race card, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus stated that Obama is "looking to Europe for guidance."

Word of advice Reince: next time you want to make it seem like you party does not have tremendous antipathy towards minorities, don't falsely compare Obama's policies to those of Europe. While being labeled as "European" is one of the worst insults from a Republican, many European nations are frankly doing things a lot better than we are. Gay marriage is recognized by all European Union nations, and The World Health Organization rankings list 22 European nations ahead of America in their Health Care rankings.

Republicans should look to Europe for inspiration. Only two percent of delegates at the Republican National Convention were African American. Despite throwing a few token minorities on the stage, such as Susana Martinez, Mia Love, Artur Davis and Marco Rubio, nobody confuses the GOP as a big tent party. When the vast majority of your party members are white, it would be safe to assume most of them are of European descent.

The past four years have been a sad reminder that our nation still has a very long way to go in our battle against discrimination. Almost every piece of legislation proposed by Democrats during the last four years has been blocked by a racist Republican agenda aimed at making Obama's presidency a failure.

If you don't believe me, ask House Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. He said, "The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president."

If they really cared so much about the economy, The Tea Party would have rallied against Former President George W. Bush's war in Iraq, which eventually crippled our economy. At the very least, they would approve a jobs bill aimed at putting veterans back to work.

The current Republican Party is one of racism and oppression. Let's hope for the good of the nation that they can return to the Republican Party that ended slavery.

Let's hope this November, Americans choose a president who symbolizes the progress we have made, not one who wants to bring us back to the dark years that have tarnished our history.

## LIFE'S NOT A COMPETITION, BUT I'M WINNING

Time in general and, more specifically, here at Middlebury, is valuable. Never was this more apparent than as I sat in the news office in the early hours of Tuesday morning, contemplating the multitude of tasks in the coming day, *Campus*-related and otherwise. Everywhere you look people are running toward or from something, rushing to cram in as much as possible in the ever-rigid structure of a 24-hour day. I feel a wave of sadness that despite my inclination to jump in and get my hands dirty trying out new activities, realistically it would be impossible for me to enjoy anything without one thing we all desperately need, yet insist on going without: sleep. It is only the third week of school and we are already depriving ourselves. This tendency is nothing if not masochistic.

Why do I say masochism? Does the fault really lie with us? Yes. We perpetuate this drama for various reasons, but when you get down to it, for many, going to bed before two in the morning means to them that they could have been doing more. And this habit, at least for me, only kicks in when I return to this high-powered campus environment. While I would not say Middlebury students are particularly competitive about academics, we do compete on a daily basis over whose life sucks more, at any given moment. And it doesn't seem as though it's for a sympathy vote. Do we think that it makes us more awesome when we're drinking eight cups of coffee a day? The caffeine may be weak but as someone who has in the past subscribed to this particular form of substance abuse, it gets to be excessive. The fact that, say, your right eye has spontaneously begun to twitch, should be a clue that you passed your caffeine-intake safety zone about three cups ago. Not that this has ever happened to me ...

It is ridiculous to hear these conversations play out: one student explaining how he has three essays, a lab report and a fellowship application due, while the other responds saying, well, he has the same responsibilities AND is working two jobs. Beat that, bitch! Yeah, it's all fun and games until someone has a meltdown. If I may use an analogy (that some may find offensive): you're only cool if you can do five shots of tequila and NOT throw up.

Speaking of which, let's not forget

the "Work hard, play hard" philosophy. And no, this is not my cue to rant on the many perils of excessive drinking. "Work hard, play hard" does not only apply to heavy class loads and late-night partying. The "play" aspect might be applied to whatever it is that one does outside of class loads and academic activities. And while each might feel that the time spent with say his or her a capella group, or at Riddim or any other organization is time well spent, there is something to be said for taking a moment to relax. At times, no matter how late at night, when I finally get into my bed, I cannot fall asleep without a half-hour of totally brainless activity. It's possible that I'm alone in this habit; however, it seems that if I allowed more time for these moments during the normal daylight hours, I would always be able to fall asleep when the occasion called for it. The change could be as small as choosing to eat dinner with a person rather than your latest reading assignment.


The fact is we go to extremes. A friend of mine said the day before classes started, "Everything in moderation, including moderation." The argument is, we're young! But as I see more and more of my friends suffering from the early autumn cold (does that even exist?), I have to ask why, oh why we insist on the worst for ourselves.

Unfortunately, as is clear from my examples above, I am not innocent of this self-effacing behavior. In fact, I am a seasoned regular in not sleeping, eating badly, drinking too much, studying too hard and crying in public (see definition for meltdown). In fact, this last semester I almost did actually (and inadvertently) destroy myself, doing so much and becoming so ill that it took me over a month of my dearly beloved summer time to physically recover. I vowed not to make the same mistake again. But this environment is not one for wimps and wall-owers. No matter how much I learn at this school, there is something about the campus that brings out the insane in me. After all, what is a definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

## SETTING ANTS ON FIRE

Michelle Smoler '13 is the managing editor from Westport, Conn.





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# LET THEM E

**“As far as I know, Middlebury has always fed students here on campus,”** said Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette. Proctor was opened in 1959 and served as the main dining hall for the ten years following its opening until the College started a new initiative using Social Dining Units.

Social Dining Units were originally created when the Freeman International Center (FIC) was built in 1970. They provided an alternative and more intimate setting for students than the larger dining hall. The FIC was built around this idea and originally all the offices and classrooms were situated around a central kitchen. During this time, Le Chateau also served meals.

Biette arrived in 1997 when Le Chateau, Student Dining Units and Proctor were the only locations where food was served on campus. Ross opened in the

fall of 2002 and Atwater opened in the spring of 2005. Atwater and Ross were built as new additions during the implementation of the Commons System.

The dining halls, year after year, strive to represent the College’s goals with regard to the food they serve.

“The goal of dining services is to enhance the Middlebury experience for all students,” said Executive Chef Robert Cleveland.

Both Cleveland and Biette agree that each dining hall serves a specific purpose on campus and appeals to different students. When asked which dining hall best exemplifies the goals of dining services, Biette said, “They all do in various ways. Each has a bit of differences and people gravitate to what they enjoy.”

All three dining halls strive to incorporate local food into their fare and serve as a principal buyer for over fifty local Ver-

mont companies.

Baba-Louis’s Bakery in Chester, Vt. considers Middlebury one of its most important customers. “We truly value our relationship [with Middlebury College]” said the company. Baba-Louis’s, among other local companies like Vermont Highland Beef and Blue Ledge Farms, depends on the College’s business to survive.

In spite of the emphasis that the College puts on buying food from local and sustainable sources, it must also buy from wholesale distributors.

“Foods can and do come from around the world, depending on the ingredient and season,” said Biette.

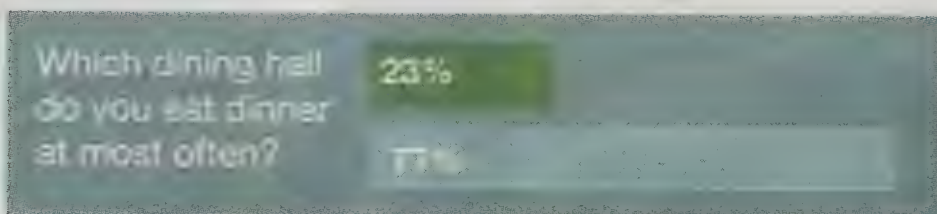
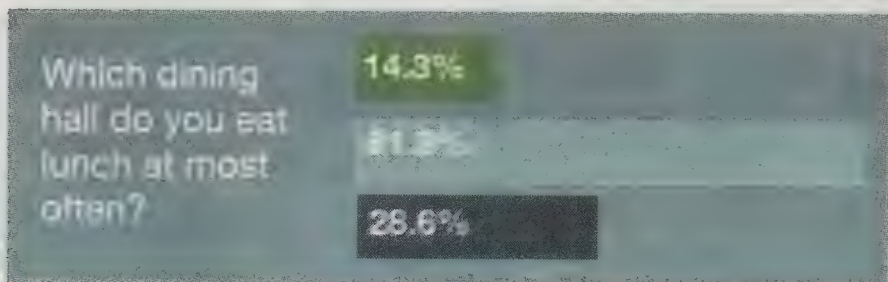
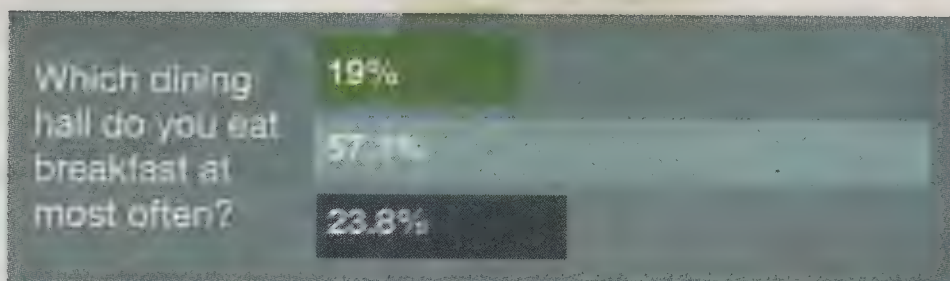
The Geography department started an initiative called “Food Mapping” based on a suggestion by former student Christopher Howell ’04.5. This project creates visuals of the geographic origin of four different meals served regularly on campus. In

mapping breakfast, turkey dinner, Mexican fajita lunch and the beloved chicken parmesan, the project provides stunning visuals for how far the food we eat travels before it hits our plates.

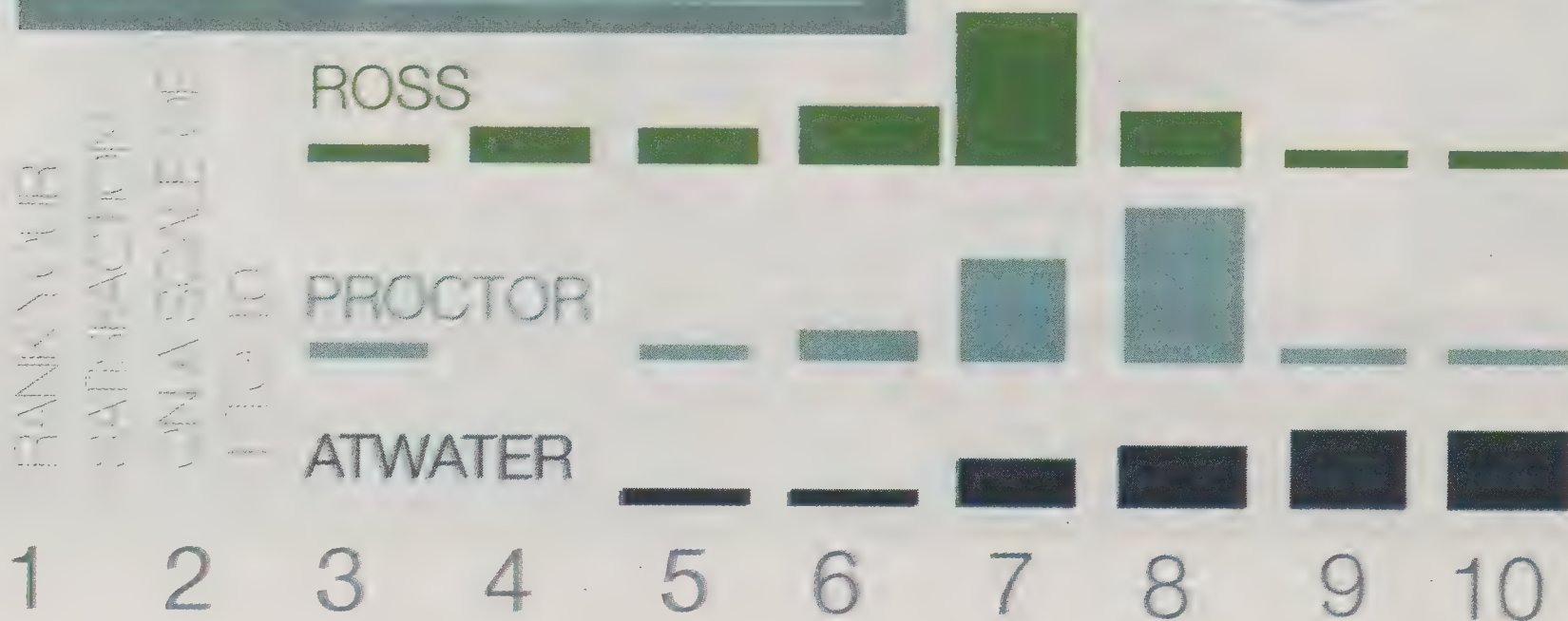
Historically, the College has seen many initiatives to create more food awareness on campus. Last year, there was a push from a group of students in environmental economics for “LessMeat Mondays,” based on the amount of carbon expended to create meat-based meals.

This initiative received some backlash from meat-eaters who felt guilt-tripped into abstaining from meat. “It’s hard when you’re really hungry and just want to eat what you want to eat and there’s people outside Proctor making you feel guilty for wanting to eat a piece of chicken,” said Mitchell Parrish ’14.

Students and the dining services both struggle to strike a balance between eating consciously, but also enjoying the



MOST FREQUENT REQUEST AT PROCTOR: MAPLE BALSAMIC DRESSING



70% say that being bought locally and from sustainable sources is more important to them than food that is good.



# EAT LOCAL

by Stephanie Roush  
layout by Olivia Allen

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When asked which he though was more important, food coming from local and sustainable sources or food that tastes good, Cleveland commented that "hopefully they are one in the same."

Yet, when the *Campus*' editorial board was polled and that same question was asked, the results were drastically different. Seventy percent of editors answered that they prioritize sustainable food over taste.

The College's dining services must take into account a plethora of preferences, priorities and practicalities when creating the menus for the three dining halls.

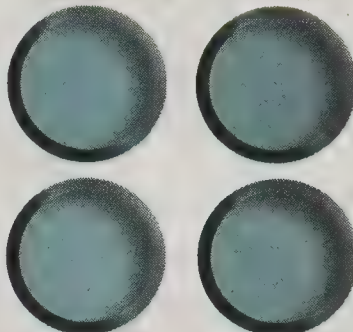
Above all, staff hope that students have a pleasant dining experience.

The staff and the meals they create are there for "the enjoyment of the students," said Cleveland.

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PIZZA AT ROSS PANINI AT PROCTOR

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**WHERE DOES  
YOUR FOOD  
COME FROM?**

## DINING SERVICES MISSION STATEMENT:

A professional, flexible and dependable team dedicated to enhancing the health and enjoyment of the Middlebury College experience.



## TASTE CHEESE WITH CHOPSTICKS



BY JIAYI ZHU

I guess there are stages in most of the things happening around us. Two weeks ago I was complaining about the dining hall food, mainly because I just spent more than three months at home with my favorite dishes every day. Now that I have accepted that I will have to live with our lovely dining hall food for the following three months, things have changed into a second stage—instead of plainly complaining about it, I need to do something to improve my quality of life!

I discovered yesterday that I could make tuna sushi at Ross. Bring some seaweed to the dining hall, roll some jasmine rice into the seaweed, and top with mixed canned tuna at the salad bar and mayonnaise. Yum!

Since many of the dishes in the dining halls are lacking some flavor for me, I decided to consider those as half-processed and use my creativity, like students in Proctor do. Pour some corn and beans into the green color wrap, add curry and cumin powder, and it becomes one of my favorite panini recipes.

My international friends are masters at creating their home flavors using ingredients at hand. The Middlebury Co-Op is a fair place to find some authentic Asian seasonings. Last semester, a friend from Thailand taught me how to make a Thai dessert called tabtim. First he chopped water chestnuts into little squares, colored them with pink syrup, and covered the pink squares with cornstarch. Then he boiled the covered squares in hot water, they turned into beautiful shapes that looked like a ruby embedded in transparent crystal. At last he put the lovely crystals in iced sweetened coconut milk. The dessert is so beautiful that I showed it off to my friends several times after learning it.

But there are still some crucial ingredients that cannot be found in Middlebury. For example my favorite snow fungus soup with lotus seeds in it. I brought the snow fungus and lotus seeds back. Last weekend I missed the taste of it a lot so I made a pot of it. My friend had never tasted it before and I was glad she liked it. When I was cleaning the pot, I realized that it was not the taste that I missed the most, but the experience of sharing a whole pot of the sweet soup with others.

Sometimes my friends and I will go to Sabai Sabai to have some Asian food to cure our nostalgic stomachs, but it would be more similar to home if the serving size could be larger. In China, the dish rarely comes in an individual portion. Instead, family and friends on the same table order a variety of dishes that everyone could share. Dishes will be put down in the middle of the table, and chopsticks are long enough for us to pick out whatever we want, and if the table is too large, there'll be a round table in the middle to rotate any dish right in front of us. A lot of interactions happen since people literally have to reach out for food.

Sharing food with people on the same table makes me feel connected and closer to the ones around me. Maybe it's another reason why language tables are so popular on campus.

## Midd entrepreneurs create startups

By Alex Strott

As a liberal arts college, Middlebury is not the first school that comes to mind when people think of entrepreneurship and young people working with small, start-up companies.

Middlebury may not be Silicon Valley, but that does not mean there are not students right here on our campus doing groundbreaking things in the business realm and making an impact in their industries.

In recent years, with the help of classes like Middlebury Entrepreneurs and MiddCORE, but primarily through their own efforts and determination, several students at the College have founded their own companies.

Corinne Prevot '13 started her business four years ago as a high school junior at the Burke Mountain Academy, a boarding school in northeast Vermont with a focus on skiing.

Over one rainy winter break, she and her mother went out to buy materials to make hats, headbands and other accessories for ski races.

"I've always been very crafty," said Prevot. "Some people like music; I dabble on the sewing machine."

Prevot's quality products and unique designs soon gained popularity. She began selling custom orders to friends, teammates and competitors at ski races and eventually sold some to her first retail buyer, East Burke Sports, a local ski shop. Prevot named her new company Skida, after the Swedish word meaning "to ski."

Since then, Skida products have expanded to 80 locations across the country. In 2011, Prevot was awarded the prestigious title of an All-Star Student Entrepreneur by *Forbes* when her revenues hit the \$100,000 mark. This spring, Vermont Life Magazine featured Skida as a "fabric of Vermont."

As a full-time student running her own business with nothing but the help of her mother and some hired seamstresses in northeastern Vermont, Prevot still manages a regular course load along with a 20-hour work week. However, Prevot looks forward to the prospect of devoting more of her time to Skida once she graduates this spring.

She plans to increase her product line and add in some style pieces, as well as expand on Skida's philanthropic project,

Skida Plus One, where online buyers can donate a hat to one of four cancer centers in Vermont or Colorado at their time of purchase. But no matter where Prevot takes Skida next, she maintains that it is her goal to keep all production domestic.

Prevot's advice to other entrepreneurs is simply to "be patient with it."

"Let it grow organically," said Prevot. She believes that entrepreneurship derived from passion is best when left to take its own path.

Rocket Listings is another small start-up company that were founded by Middlebury students.

The summer after taking MiddCORE during his first winter term, Brian Sirkia '12.5 had the idea of helping spring semester students rent out their things to language school students.

Over the next few years, Sirkia collaborated with mentors and co-founder Nat Kelner '12.5 to take this initiative even further by establishing Rocket Listings, a website designed to make buying and selling items online easier and faster. Rocket Listings also allows customers to cross-list postings with similar sites, like Craigslist.

"What brought me to Middlebury

was the appeal of the liberal arts and their intersection with technology, and that same appeal is what brought me to Rocket Listings," said Teddy Knox '15, chief technology officer and co-founder of the company.

Although Sirkia and Kelner received money through the College's Millennium Fund, they expressed that raising funds and contacting potential investors has been one of the most challenging aspects of running their small business.

Their hope is to stay based in Burlington where they currently have an office on Church Street, but they recognize that relocating is a real possibility. Still, the two feel that the move would be well worth staying with the company and pursuing their dream jobs.

"You've got to be willing to take risks and jump into the deep-end," said Kelner.

He admits that Rocket Listings has not been a simple endeavor, but that college is the time to take such chances, when most of us do not have to worry about putting food on the table or taking care of a family.

"It's all an attitude," said Sirkia when talking about what he learned from his entrepreneurial endeavors.



COURTESY OF CORINNE PREVOT

Corinne Prevot (left) races wearing a headband manufactured by her company, Skida.

## COLLEGE CORPS: NOTABLE COMPANIES FOUNDED BY STUDENTS

Google

**Google Inc.**  
Larry Page & Sergey Brin  
Stanford University  
1998



**Napster**  
Shawn Fanning  
Northeastern University  
1999

FedEx

**FedEx Corp.**  
Frederick Smith  
Yale University  
1971

Microsoft

**Microsoft Corp.**  
Bill Gates & Paul Allen  
Harvard University  
1975



**Dell Inc.**  
Michael Dell  
University of Texas, Austin  
1984

facebook

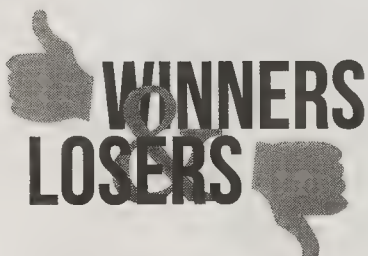
**Facebook Inc.**  
Mark Zuckerberg et al.  
Harvard University  
2004

YAHOO!

**Yahoo! Inc.**  
Jerry Yang & David Filo  
Stanford University  
1995



**WordPress**  
Matt Mullenweg  
University of Houston  
2003



### FALL COLORS

Plan your outfits accordingly ...

### JAMNESTY

It was wise not to call this poetry event "Slamnesty."

### IMPROV SHOWS

Middlebrow and the Otters provide great study breaks

### FIRST MCAB CONCERT

Brooklyn indie rock band, Miniature Tigers, killed it.

### FLIES IN PROCTOR

The latest insect infestation is really causing a buzz.

### WET WEATHER

It's "plastic bag on the bike seat" season!

### LITTER ON CAMPUS

BevCo gives you cash for beer cans you bring back!

### SATURDAY NIGHT ADP

In the words of Ke\$ha: "po' po' shut us down, down."



# Dalai Lama campus visit stirs controversy

By David Ullmann

At midnight on Wednesday, Sept. 12, hundreds of students, packed in libraries, common rooms and dorms across campus eagerly clicked through pages of Middlebury's online box-office, hoping to score tickets to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's lecture.

Since its announcement last spring, the Dalai Lama's visit, which will feature a talk of peace and hope, has been much anticipated by most of the community. But for many others, the matter is more complicated.

The Dalai Lama's visit is unsettling for some Chinese students, whose home government portrays him as a divisive political enemy.

The Dalai Lama's pending visit disturbs Yanwei Wang '16, who is originally from central China. He viewed the free ticket as an overly confrontational method of spreading a biased, anti-Chinese perspective across campus.

"I am worried he might say things to his advantage rather than the truth," Wang said.

"I think if the intention of the administration is to give people more knowledge, then they could arrange meetings with him ... but not invite him to the campus because [in doing so] the school assumes everyone will be happy and supportive," he continued.

Others who remain concerned about the Dalai Lama's visit see the event as a unique opportunity to hear a renowned, if somewhat controversial, voice who could offer a counterargument to their home country's accepted views.

Alec Mackenzie '15, who lived in China for 16 years before coming to Middlebury, expressed an overall enthusiasm for the Dalai Lama's approaching visit.

"I'm really excited to see the Dalai Lama, but I also want to know what he thinks about [China]," said Mackenzie. "[In] coming from China, I never read any news about the Dalai Lama."

Roy Wang '16, from Xinjiang Province, China, was surprised and frightened by the upcoming visit; however, he still plans to attend the Dalai Lama's lecture.

"It will be a good experience for me to listen to a voice other than the Chinese government," says Wang. "Even if I cannot stand to hear what the Dalai Lama

says about my county... I will stay. I will definitely want to hear what he says."

Ye Tian '16, a first-year student from China, explains that while he is worried about the Dalai Lama insulting his nation, he also feels the event is intended to foster dialogue on more enduring issues than territorial bickering.

"I think [the subject of the Dalai Lama's talk] is somehow far away from politics. I think those things are something more general, more religious or more spiritual to teach everybody," said Tian.

The administration has said that the event is not aimed at addressing political issues, but broader spiritual matters that are easily relatable to all students. Col-

lege Chaplain Laurie Jordan, who helped organize the event, claims the school takes no particular side on the question of Tibetan independence.

Though the potential concern for Chinese students was well known from the start, Jordan believes the College, as an educational institution, has the responsibility of broadening people's horizons, which can sometimes lead to discomfort.

YANWEI WANG  
CLASS OF '16

Jordan addressed initiatives taken to calm certain students' worries, such as creating a list of useful advisers to talk to and a plan to speak with First-Year Councilors who may have Chinese students living in their halls.

"What we wanted to do is to have

him as a high level guest ... to come and speak at the College about his wisdom or experience in a way that related to the issues of religious traditions and spirituality," said Jordan.

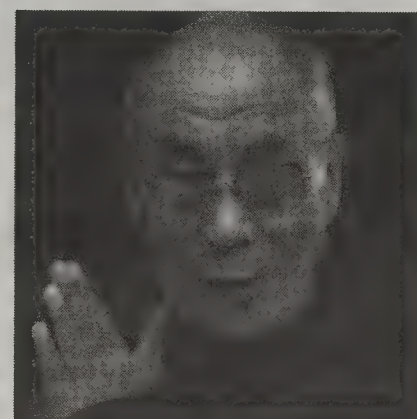
Jordan also mentioned that controversial speakers have come to the College in the past, citing Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Chief Justice John Roberts and President George W. Bush's press secretary Ari Fleischer.

According to Jordan, none of these speakers were invited to speak as a sign of support for that individual but rather as an attempt to expose students to a wide range of perspectives.

"Our motivation [in bringing the Dalai Lama] had nothing to do with politics. Our main aim was to create an event that would get a conversation going about the place of ancient wisdom in modern times," said Jordan.



Soon after the Communist Party of China seized power in 1949, the area that is now the Tibetan Autonomous Region was incorporated into China. In 1951, the respective governments of the People's Republic of China and Tibet signed an agreement which handed sovereignty of the region over to the Chinese government. China's role in Tibet remains controversial and continues to inspire protests.



TENZIN GYATSO: THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

1935: Born in Taktser, China

1937: Recognized as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama at age two.

1950: Formally named the 14th Dalai Lama

1951: Tibet incorporated into People's Republic of China

1959: Flees to India following Tibetan Uprising. Establishes Tibetan government in exile

1984 & 1990: Visits Middlebury to deliver addresses

## DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

By Meredith White

**Course:**  
American  
Disabilities Studies

**Professor:**  
Susan Burch (Director,  
Center for the Comparative  
Study of Race & Ethnicity)

**Department:**  
American Studies

**Credits:**  
HIS, NOR, SOC

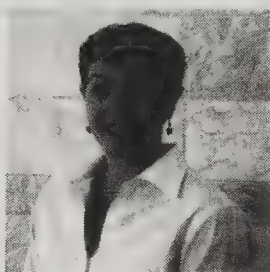
**Location:**  
Axinn 103

**Meeting Time:**  
M, W 2:50-4:05

The Campus provides a dual perspective on a noteworthy course offered this fall semester.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will examine the history, meanings, and realities of disability in the United States. We will analyze the social, political, economic, environmental and material factors that shape the meanings of "disability," examining changes and continuities over time. Students will draw critical attention to the connections between disability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status and age in American and transnational contexts. Diverse sources, including films and television shows, music, advertising, fiction, memoirs and material objects, encourage inter and multi-disciplinary approaches to disability. Central themes we consider include language, privilege, community, citizenship, education, medicine and technology and representation.



Asst. Prof. Susan Burch

### PROFESSOR PERSPECTIVE:

American Studies Professor Susan Burch feels privileged to be teaching American Disabilities, a class that has been previously offered at Middlebury but debuts in its revamped format this semester.

"On a big level, my intent is to have students asking tough questions about the world around them," said Burch.

By using disability as a lens through which to examine history and culture, Burch hopes that students will walk away from her class with a new "touchstone for critical thinking."

The course is centered around a museum exhibit project, which Burch said "intentionally engages with a material culture, a culture that shapes our understanding of the body and mind."

Students work in groups throughout the semester to create a final product intended to be shared with the public, adding to the material culture they have studied.

The museum exhibit project serves as a teaser for any students interested in the associated winter term internship opportunity with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

### STUDENT PERSPECTIVE:

For any prospective American Studies major, American Disabilities is a natural first step.

The collaborative nature of the course lends itself to a big class size that offers a hearty welcome to students with any level of interest in the American Studies department.

"I feel like this class is unique in that you don't hear about it being offered at other schools," said Tyler Wood '15.

Other students recognize the class's uniqueness not just amongst other schools, but within the College.

"[Even though the College is] such an advanced and modern school disabilities studies still only makes up a very small part of a department. There is only one professor that teaches it," said Priscilla Odinhah '15.

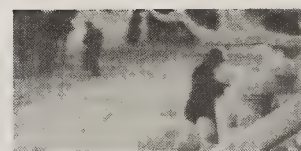
"My love, sex, race and disabilities class made me aware of how disabilities are so overlooked," said Suraj Patel '15.

Odinhah agrees with Patel and finds that the class offers a new perspective on social issues in America.

"We've embraced women, we've embraced gay. Disabilities is the last frontier," she said.

From the Middlebury Course Catalog





## M Gallery exhibit celebrates VT immigrants

Personal dioramas tell complex stories of dreams in a new land



PHOTOS BY SOPHIE BUFTON

Top Left: Students explore the new exhibit. Top Right: A diorama shows experiences of labor and love. Bottom: A piece blends elements of one worker's old and new lives.

By Ben Mansky

A breeze blows over Otter Creek, sweeping an earthy scent up from the riverbanks to the patio of Old Stone Mill. The M Gallery shines like a beacon from the first floor of the old building, and the sounds of conversation filter through the windows. Inside, visitors find ropes of flowers draped over rafters. But alongside this cheerful atmosphere is a message far more complex. It is a message of injustice and fear, of danger and sacrifice — but it is also a message of courage, hope and the pursuit of a better life.

The *Invisible Odysseys* exhibit, brought to the M Gallery as a part of the myAMERICA? Immigration Symposium, opened last Friday to an enthusiastic audience of students, faculty and members of the community. Addressing the issues surrounding immigration from Mexico to the United States, the exhibit aims to provide a more personal perspective on the struggles of immigrants. Each work of art is accompanied by a story — sometimes a poem, sometimes an explanation of the piece, sometimes a tale of the treacherous crossing into the United States — presented in both English and Spanish. Nearly every diorama featured in the exhibition was created by an immigrant now working on a farm in Vermont. The workers have little to no artistic experience.

The exhibit's creator and curator, sculptor B. Amore, explained that her original plan for the exhibit was to listen to the workers' stories and interpret them as sculpture herself. With the help of Susan McCandless and Ethan Mitchell, alongside groups including the Addison County Farm Worker Coalition, Juntos and Migrant Ed, Amore located the first migrant, Ismael, and heard his story. Upon listening, however, it struck her that his tale was so vivid and visual that the only one to recreate it should be Ismael himself. With that, the network expanded, and greater numbers of Mexican farm workers were encouraged to express themselves and their journeys through large, autobiographical dioramas. For inspiration, they were each given a booklet of outsider art — works by people with no formal art education — as well as materials and support. While some were reluctant at first, the newfound artists soon found the work extremely gratifying.

"Everyone was so excited to work on it because it was a chance to tell their stories," said Amore.

The process of creating the dioramas

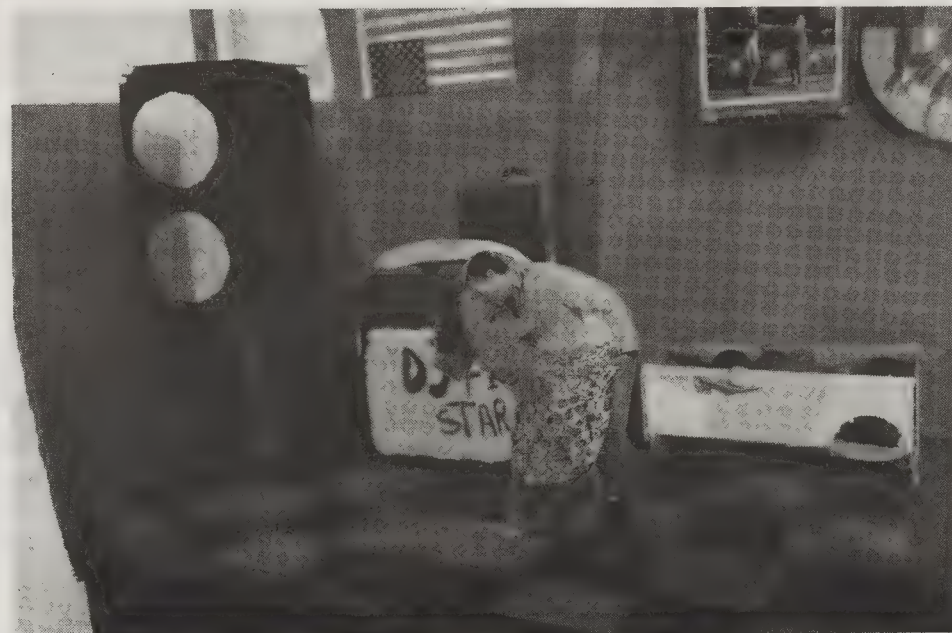
took about six to eight months, with a long period of outreach and planning that put the total time that went into this exhibit well over one year — and it certainly shows.

The art is visceral, and the impact is made only stronger by the stories that accompany each piece. Fear is made tangible in the work "Esfuérzate y se Valiente/ Be Strong and Courageous," where a large van full of people teeters atop a box painted with a map of the border crossing. Visitors can feel disillusionment in "The Mirage of a Dream," which presents the imagined America with a dollar bill over an entryway while describing the "crossing of death" that awaits those who attempt entry. "Worker's

Emigrante de Hidalgo described the meaning behind the desolate desert landscape, scattered with scorpions, snakes and sharp stones.

"The scorpions and the snakes represent the dangers we face in crossing the border," he said. "The [painting in the] center is here, Vermont — here, there is life, there is work."

He spoke of his personal struggle, of leaving behind his family without knowing if he would ever see them again, of adapting to a strange new environment without knowing the language, of rising costs in Mexico and the need for work that will allow him to pay for his children's education.



*Invisible Odysseys* explores the personal stories and struggles of migrant workers.

Mandala/Tracing the Journeys," a central piece by Amore, serves as an overview of the entire collection, mapping each immigrant's arduous path up from Mexico and across the country to arrive in Vermont. But the message that shines through is that of two opposing views of the Green Mountain State — Vermont as a paradise, and Vermont as a prison.

The portrayal of Vermont as a pastoral paradise is a predominant theme in several of the dioramas in *Invisible Odysseys*. "The Sacrifice to Better Provide for my Family," created by an artist who calls himself "El Emigrante de Hidalgo, México," focuses on the juxtaposition of two contrasting scenes — a Mexican desert and a Vermont landscape. Present at the exhibit opening, El

He would bring his family to Vermont to stay with him, he said, if they could come legally, but since he is not legal, it simply is not safe. While Vermont is calm and secure compared to Mexico, all he can do is wait.

Like El Emigrante de Hidalgo's work, "Aparador/Window Shopping" by El Soñador imagines a better future for generations to come, a future that isn't possible in Mexico. However, El Soñador fears that this imagined future isn't possible in the United States, either — not with the constant fear of deportation. Another artist, A.B., takes a similar view in "Beauty Can Be Deceiving," writing that, although Vermont gave the impression of beauty, and although there was work here, it is closer to a prison than a paradise. Here, the artist is unable to travel

freely, constantly facing the fear of deportation or mistreatment and cannot stand being away from any relatives for so long. Juan Carlos' diorama "La Caja de un Rancho/The Box of a Farm" mirrors this sentiment, describing himself as trapped, both on the farm and in the United States.

It is true that life in Vermont is not easy for these workers — they live in extremely cramped conditions and work long hours for low wages. But, for many, it is neither a prison nor a paradise — it is only a tool.

In "Pursuing a Dream," artist Mauro has built a model mansion, brightly colored and festively decorated. He describes his long-term goal to have such a house on a nice property in Mexico.

There is not enough work in Mexico to raise the money, so he has come here for a few years — only as long as he needs to save up for his dream home.

He does not and never has intended to stay here. Mexico has always been the goal; Vermont has just been a necessary step along the way.

Slightly less self-assured are mother-daughter pair Anabel and Maria. In their diorama, entitled "Ilusión/Illusion," they express a profound nostalgia for their life in Mexico.

However, while they made a promise to themselves to go to the U.S., raise money, then return to Mexico to purchase land and a proper home, they are having second thoughts about going back — there is not the same stability to be found in Mexico as there is in Vermont.

Overall, *Invisible Odysseys* provided an intensely personal perspective on the issue of immigration, one that is near-impossible to find anywhere else. Amore recognizes the exhibit's neat design.

"When you read something about immigration, how often do you actually see a quote from an immigrant," she asked.

*Invisible Odysseys* displays the power of art in giving everyone a voice, even those who we rarely think about in our day-to-day lives, those who have faced more than we could imagine, to get where they are right now.

Amore thinks it is about time they made their struggles known.

"These are people with tremendous courage."

*Invisible Odysseys* will be at the M Gallery until Oct. 7. In addition, opening Sept. 28 in the Vermont Folklife Center in town is an exhibit of the work of El Emigrante de Hidalgo, México.

**DON'T  
MISS  
THIS**

### Clifford Symposium

Boasting the theme of "Creativity and Collaboration," this year's Clifford Symposium is in celebration of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts' 20th anniversary. A full listing of events and speakers can be found at go/arts.

9/27- 9/29, VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### The Dramatic Life of Science and Mathematics

This interplay between theater and science has been the topic of a regular teaching collaboration between Steve Abbott, Professor of Mathematics and Cheryl Faraone, Professor of Theatre and Women and Gender Studies — centered around the proposition that science and art are worthy partners.

9/30, 4:30 - 6 P.M., SEELER STUDIO THEATER

### Buddha Prince Backstage

Film screening, discussion and workshops with Markell Kiefer '96.5, Tyson Lien '98 and Tenzin Ngawang. Buddha Prince Backstage is a documentary film on the creation and staging of their outdoor walking play "The Buddha Prince," celebrating the extraordinary life and teachings of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

9/30, 7:30 P.M., DANA AUDITORIUM



## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT: BUNT LAB

By Will Henriques

The laboratory of Burr Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Chair of the Chemistry Department Rick Bunt is a small, unobtrusive room tucked about halfway down the north hall of the fifth floor in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Pinned to a board outside the door are various published papers with long titles, and the lab is a visual maze of complicated instruments: oddly shaped glass tubes, rubber hoses, delicate looking electronics, small vials and large jugs of liquid scattered across shelves and benches.

For the layperson, the veil of visual complexity effectively disguises the important work that's being done in the Bunt lab these days.

"We're trying to understand how and why chemical reactions that form molecules with specific shapes work," said Bunt.

His work at the College is an extension of the work he did in organic chemistry as a graduate student at Stanford University.

"I was trying to build successful chemical reactions and document the structure of the products," said Bunt. "Now I'm trying to understand how those type of reactions work so that I can control a molecule's three-dimensional shape when I synthesize it."

Eric Roberts '13 is Bunt's sole thesis student this year and works directly with Bunt on his current project. He and Bunt are trying to understand the synthesis of molecules using a specific palladium-based catalyst, a molecule that makes the reaction work.

"Basically, you have a symmetric molecule that you're trying to add another molecule to," said Roberts. "And there are two possible outcomes, or enantiomers, that are non-super-imposable mirror images of each other, much like your left hand and right hand. And you can control which outcome you get with the palladium catalyst. We're trying to understand how that control works."

Think of the chemical reaction as the addition of thumbs to four-fingered gloves. The thumb piece can be sewn on to the glove to make either a left-handed

glove or a right-handed glove. The final products are mirror images of each other, but not identical.

This type of work has direct applications in the pharmaceutical industry. When a drug is synthesized, there are several possible outcomes (enantiomers) in the chemical structure of the drug, but usually one of those structures is useful or applicable. An example is oseltamivir, a drug on the market with the trade name Tamiflu, which is used to treat symptoms of the flu. It was originally synthesized from shikimic acid, a chemical that is derived from Chinese anise seed. Due to the limited supply of Chinese anise in the world, pharmaceutical companies looked for a different way to synthesize the drug from scratch.

The problem is that the synthesis of the chemical needed to make Tamiflu has eight possible outcomes, and chemists are looking for one specific stereoisomer, or outcome. It's as if there were eight possible types of gloves, and the chemists are looking for one specific version of the left-handed glove. To isolate the desired stereoisomer, chemists use a catalyst that only created that stereoisomer. The catalyst is like the needle and thread that sews the thumb piece to the glove, except in the case of oseltamivir, the needle and thread were only capable of sewing one type of glove, and that was the specific version of the left-handed glove.

Nathaniel Nelson '11, who worked in Bunt's lab for three summers and a full school year, helped explain this phenomenon.

"Compounds that are biologically active are usually stereochemically specific (right-handed or left-handed) to fit with the (right-handed or left-handed) enzymes working in the body," he said. "For many reactions, if two enantiomers (one right-handed molecule and one left-handed molecule) are possible, you'll get about 50 percent of each. If you're making a drug, however, that needs to be only 'right-handed,' say, then you waste 50 percent of your starting materials (presumably just throwing away the 'left-handed' molecules). That waste is expensive and inefficient to generate. It means throwing out



COURTESY

Rick Bunt, Burr professor of chemistry and biochemistry, lectures his CHEM 103 class on the properties of photons. His research focuses on finding specific, desired stereoisomers.

half of the products of a reaction. The key then, is to figure out how to synthesize only the desired stereoisomer (either the right hand or the left hand, but not both), using the right catalyst."

That's where the Bunt Lab comes in.

"Bunt's work focuses on a type of catalyst formed when palladium coordinates with an organic ligand called PHOX ligand that favors one enantiomer over the other, [so] 90 percent 'right-handed' molecules, 10 percent wasted 'left-handed' molecules," said Nelson.

Bunt is studying this specific set of reactions in depth to better understand the reaction's mechanisms, and he's making progress.

Several years ago when Nelson was working in Bunt's lab, they had a curious and unexpected result.

"[We found] a single ligand which was totally inconsistent — sometimes forming products with huge preference for the 'right-handed' molecule, sometimes forming nearly 50 percent mixtures of the two and sometimes ending up somewhere in the middle ... and we began to realize the reaction must be reversible," said Nelson. This discovery was something no one had

noticed before.

That's where Roberts will pick up with his thesis work this year, trying to explain what Nelson characterizes as a "baffling irreversibility." But he's optimistic.

"I'm going to try to figure out how the catalyst breaks down, and hopefully begin to understand the mechanics of this reversible reaction," Roberts said, acknowledging that it will be a big project. "Ideally 12-15 hours of lab work every week."

Roberts wants to apply his chemistry major and economics and Spanish double minors at the interface of chemistry and business, which will take him out of the lab. However, what motivates him to put in such a significant chunk of time in the lab this year is an overwhelming sense of curiosity.

"It's all about that moment of seeing into the universe and understanding fundamentally how it works, and being able to further that understanding with my own work and research," he said.

Bunt, who has dedicated his life to chemistry, echoed this sentiment.

"I want to know how things work, why they work," he said. "I'm mesmerized by the elegance of chemical synthesis."

## ONE LIFE LEFT

BY SANTIAGO AZPURUA-BORRAS

Borderlands 2 was a tough sell for me. The first game, Borderlands, was great in its own right: it was a four-player cooperative shooter that had you and any buddies you may have online join up and shoot some aliens while on the hunt for loot and ultimately, the vault, a legendary place said to be filled with alien treasure and technology.

But despite its frantic fun, the first game suffered some major flaws: the world was huge, but mostly empty, and if you didn't have any friends (or an internet connection) the game became incredibly dull. Top that all off with a healthy dose of "terrible ending" and you've got the perfect recipe for some gamer skepticism.

However, when its developers Gearbox announced they had gotten Anthony Burch, writer and creator of the "Hey Ask Whatcha Playin?" web series to write the story, hope suddenly crept into me. As it turns out, those hopes were well placed, Borderlands 2 kept everything that made the first game great, and fixed a lot of things that bogged down the first game.

Borderlands 2 takes us back to the planet Pandora. On a side note, why do people like Gearbox and James Cameron think "Pandora" is a clever name for a planet? Might as well just cut the thin veil of mythological referencing and call it something like planet MurderDoom. The events of the first game introduced the element Eridium, which catches the eye of

the intergalactic corporation, Hyperion. Hyperion's CEO, Handsome Jack, wants to find the second vault of Eridium and plunder it for all that its worth, and the player must stop him.

The story is a lot more interesting now thanks to the inclusion of a solid antagonist, something the first game desperately needed. Handsome Jack is the caricature of the one percent. He constantly taunts the player with his wealth and uses it to his advantage. It also helps that Jack has moments of occasional hilarity, which I can't help but compare to the super-computer GLaDOS from the Portal games.

There is going to be a lot standing in your path: Pandora's citizens, bandits, the local flora and fauna and robots. Lots of robots. But luckily, you can pick one of the four available classes and team up with some friends to take down Jack's hordes once and for all.

For my play-through, I picked Maya, the siren, who has the special ability to use interdimensional energy called a "Phaselock" to lock an enemy into place where you or your teammates can basically take free shots while it remains active. As my character leveled up by gaining experience through completing quests, killing enemies and other such tasks, she can upgrade her special ability in a way

that's unique to her. I built her in such a way that whenever I used Phaselock, all sorts of nasty things would happen to my enemies.

All three of the other classes also have unique abilities, including the ability to dual-wield any two guns (Gunslinger class), throw out a gun turret to help you out (Commando) or turn invisible to stab enemies in the back (Assassin). All three also offer skill trees that allow the player to build the character to match your play style.

The gun-play is tight with plenty of RPG elements seamlessly streamlined into things that would typically be reserved only for the FPS. If you haven't played a Borderlands game before, damage in Borderlands is calculated around things like the damage of your gun, your

stats and the stats of the enemy. And in classical RPG fashion, little numbers that appear above the enemies' head are what determine how much damage you're inflicting per shot. On top of damage, there are other stats to take care of such as shields, health, reload speed, magazine size, changing weapon speed and other such things. While it sounds difficult to keep track of, it all becomes second-nature once you get the hang of it.

On top of all of this, the status effects make a triumphant return. Certain guns

have special effects that do bonus damage to certain enemies. Guns with fire properties are good against flesh, guns with electricity take out shields and guns with corrosive properties take care of armor while the newest element, slag, makes the enemy weaker to absolutely everything else. It's always good to keep one of each on hand as situations will always be changing around you.

Speaking of guns — there are a lot of guns. As a matter of fact, Borderlands 2 currently holds the Guinness World Record for most guns in a video game. You never really keep the same guns because as you progress through the game, you find better guns, usually selling the left overs for some extra cash to purchase things you need.

You can also find unlockable skins for your characters or vehicles, new shields, grenade mods that change the property of your grenades and relics, which permanently give you some sort of stat bonus. The rarity of the gun depends on the color in which it is highlighted, with gold being the rarest.

While I definitely recommend this game, as it is a tight, well-built FPS with its own flavor, the game can definitely reach dull levels if not played with other people. It was meant to be a multiplayer experience, after all. Luckily the game has split screen and online play, so hook up, grab your favorite gun and show Jack that money isn't everything.

### BORDERLANDS 2

Xbox 360, PS3, PC

Mature

9/10



# Students reach for the stars at astronomy symposium

By Devin MacDonald

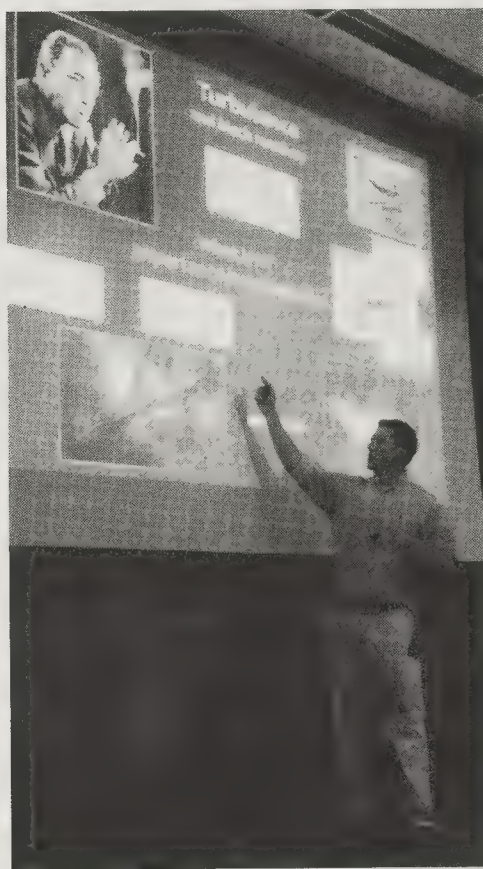
The 23rd annual Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium, which took place this past weekend was a pivotal moment for the astronomical sciences community at the College. It signaled another fruitful year amongst Keck Consortium colleges for summer astronomy research, as well as the last year at the College for Gamalliel Painter Bicentennial Professor of Physics Frank Winkler.

The weekend began on Friday evening at the Bread Loaf campus with a reception, dinner and stargazing. Students and professors from Williams, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Colgate, Swarthmore, Vassar and Haverford joined together for a social evening to discuss topics ranging from the drive up from New York to supernova remnants.

The following day was more scientifically focused, with 17 presentations over the course of an afternoon given by students in the consortium. Winkler participated in the symposium since its beginning in 1990. The first was held at Vassar College in November of that year. Since then, the event has developed and grown in expected and unexpected ways.

"The symposium has gotten a lot bigger over time as the number of students involved in astronomy has grown," said Winkler. "The way people give the talks has also changed. Back when I first started we had transparencies with overhead projectors. The quality has improved; we had a number of outstanding talks this year – interesting from beginning to end."

Winkler went on to highlight how the quality of the symposium is self-propagating. Often any student presenting at the event has already attended in previous years and, after seeing the level of achievement in the presentations, finds it incumbent upon him or herself to perform to that level, or higher.



MOLLY KALTER

Joe Putko '13 was one of the student presenters at the Keck consortium. His research presentation was part of an REU in astrophysics.

Teddy Smyth '15 worked alongside Winkler this summer logging data about supernova remnants so the information could be made public this fall. Smyth's connection to the consortium was direct – Winkler contacted him after Smyth took his course, "Introduction to the Universe," in the fall of 2011.

"This summer was spectacular," said Smyth. The most valuable part of his involvement was "learning ... what real astronomy research looks like and feels like."

Winkler also allowed Smyth and Lucia Perez, a sophomore from Wellesley and his partner for the summer, a lot of freedom with their work.

"The two of them did a fabulous job," said Winkler. "I was not here in the lab working with them every hour. I gave them a little orientation and direction and they really ran with it."

One of the great benefits of the funding for the Keck Consortium is that it allows students that freedom. The students are self-motivated and present their work during the symposium without direct help from their professors. They fielded questions and organized their presentations to effectively support and highlight their summer's worth of work.

Smyth's collaboration with Perez, for example, all culminated in an afternoon powerpoint highlighting the importance of understanding supernova remnants in the optical spectrum.

Another student presenting at the symposium was Katie Iadanza, a Colgate senior. She conducted research research on extrasolar planets this past summer, but did not receive funding from the consortium. Since Colgate is part of the consortium and learning how to defend a project is such a valuable experience, Iadanza decided to present at the symposium.

"It gave me lots of experience," said Iadanza. "There is more to science than research. You have to be able to defend your work and publish the papers. It's getting more and more important to have experience for graduate schools – it's almost a requirement at this point."

Iadanza also enjoyed the Breadloaf portion of the symposium, giving her an opportunity to reconnect with the friends she made in lab working over the summer: students from Wellesley and Wesleyan. She connected well with many students and joined in the festivities to hear the College's *a capella* group Stuck in the Middle (SIM) entertain with themed songs such as "Fly Me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra and other tunes.

"It was a really fun two days. Good place for consortium to meet and share interests and build a community of astronomical liberal arts types," said Smyth.

Lia Den Daas '16 did not present at the symposium this weekend but as a student of Winkler's astronomy course, decided to go and learn more about research happening in the field of astronomy. Den Daas stated that the "star gazing was amazing," being even better than that found weekly on the roof of McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

Den Daas made many connections on Friday night, saying that "it was really interesting to have other people to talk to" about astronomy.



MOLLY KALTER

Pictured above is a collection of the guest speakers who all presented a variety of research spanning many topics on the field of astronomy and all that it encompasses.

As a student, the symposium made her even more enthusiastic for astronomy than before.

"I took away an overall better understanding of how research works. I have more ideas for myself ... it was really cool to see how enthusiastic the students are," said Den Daas. "Professors light up [during the symposium], but it was good to see it in students as well."

From an different perspective, Smyth said of the Keck symposium that he "learned a lot – [most of] the presentations were outside the scope of things I learned in the astronomical field ... in-depth study in very specific branches of the field [gave me] a better sense of the whole of the field."

Overall the symposium was a great success. "I couldn't be more pleased," said Winkler. "We had great luck with the weather and a great turnout for Middlebury – 14 or 16 students, the most we've ever had. I'm delighted so many stayed at Bread Loaf."

This was the third time the symposium was held at the College. On previous occasions, Middlebury hosted a dinner on campus, but by the third time all of the celebrations were shifted up to the Breadloaf campus in Ripton, which "created a summer camp atmosphere," said Winkler.

Another singular feature about the symposium is that two out of the three times it has been held at the College, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, has spoken. Winkler was at a loss to name more than one other occasion when a president of the college spoke at an astronomy symposium. Liebowitz gave a brief welcome speech at the beginning of the symposium this past weekend.

The first time the symposium was held at Middlebury, then-president John McCardell gave a few words as well.

"It says a lot about the support we've had from the administration ongoing over years," said Winkler. All of us in the sciences really value that."

Winkler has decided that this will be his final year teaching at College. Al-

though he will maintain lab space and travel to campus occasionally, he will be much less of a presence in McCardell Bicentennial Hall after this year.

"It's a very bittersweet feeling," said Winkler. "I've felt very lucky to have spent my career here ... when I came here I had never taught before. It's something I've become very passionate about and wouldn't have happened had I been somewhere else."

His passion for the subject is evident in the reactions of students learning he plans to retire. Smyth, who has had the rare opportunity to spend a summer working with Winkler, said that he is "heartbroken."

"He's inspired so many kids through the years to discover the wonders of the universe," he continued. "[I'm] thoroughly hoping he will still be around campus ... [but] I'll miss him a lot in labs."

Smyth regrets that generations to come won't be able to experience Winkler in class. "[Professor Winkler] is a really cool guy. I'm really sad to see him go – he's the only one at Middlebury who seems to be truly passionate and into astronomy," said Den Daas, who has only known him for a few weeks.

Barrett Smith '13 has been working as a teaching assistant for Winkler for two years now.

"His passion for teaching really shines through," said Smith. "Frank always wants to share the love of the night sky with everyone."

This weekend highlighted the importance of the astronomical sciences at the College and in the Keck Consortium, as well as those professors that have dedicated their lives to progress in those fields.

The consortium made it possible to gather some of the brightest and best students who will one day continue on with the progress being made by the professors who believe in them.

"The greatest strength of the consortium is the work we do," said Winkler. "The symposium is the linchpin that keeps it together."

## CAPITOL STEPS

FALL FAMILY  
WEEKEND

MEAD CHAPEL

\$15 FOR STUDENTS

## SYMPHONY OF WHALES

SUNDAY

10/21

MCFA

\$8 FOR STUDENTS

## FUN.

FRIDAY

11/2

NELSON ARENA

TICKETS AVAILABLE 10/1

## BUS TICKETS

BREAK BUSES

NYC, BOSTON

BURLINGTON

(AIRPORT, BUS STATION)



# Otter Nonsense opens in McCullough

By Santiago Azpurua-Borras

As the McCullough Social Space filled during the 15 minutes before the show, excitement ignited the room and well-known pop tracks played in the background. Everyone had gathered for the return of Otter Nonsense, one of the most popular improv comedy groups on campus.

When the lights dimmed, the Otters came out in their signature monocolored T-shirts. Despite this being the first show of the year, they wasted no time with introductions.

After some quick recommendations from the audience, the Otters delved into their various characters. High points of the show included impromptu montages and song numbers about things like perfection and cocaine use. On top of all the great acting, senior Ricky Chen '13 provided musical support on the keyboard, his music proving to be hilariously appropriate. Just like the rest of the Otters, Chen worked extemporaneously, improvising every melody and chord.

Chris De La Cruz '13 created a character named Silent Joe, who appeared multiple times throughout various skits and formed a referential point for the audience.

Joe continued his creepy reign of stage dominance all the way up to the end of the show, where the final skit culminated within a Macy's and we discover the origin of Silent Joe — a nice touch and a fantastic way to conclude the show.

As one would expect from the Otters, their on-stage chemistry is tangible as they function as one well-oiled comedy machine.

The Otters advertised the fact that

they will be having auditions to join their team on Oct. 2 and 4. But just what does it take to join Otter Nonsense?

Ben Orbison '12.5 shed some light on the audition process.

"Some of it is secretive," said Orbison. "Essentially we do a first round where we explain our style of improv ... And then we talk about all the auditionees and we play a couple of games. We do not participate in the first round. The callback round is usually five or six people and then we all do some improv with them [to get] a feel [for] them as a person."

"The idea is that we [the Otters] only take people in the group that are better than all of us and it has to be unanimous," added Jenny Johnston '14. "[If] they come in and they blow it away, they win the audition."

But just what kind of person do the Otters hunt for when looking to increase their ranks?

"I would say we look and audition for someone who we all would love to hang out with," said Adam Milano '15, currently the youngest Otter. "I don't think there is any one way to say it, it's just this special thing that clicks."

"What I look for is someone that's willing to have a lot of fun, but be really honest about their improv," added De La Cruz. "I think a big thing about improv is bringing really honest situations on stage ... we are also teaching what improv is, because I did not know what it was when I came into the group."

During the show, The Otters revealed future plans, including weekly shows at Levity, a comedy club in Burlington. After the club asked them to per-



SANTIAGO AZPURUA-BORRAS

The Otters from left to right: Alexandra Kennedy '13.5, Greg Dorris '13, Adam Benay '13.5, Ricky Chen '13 with his keyboard, Christopher De La Cruz '13, Ben Orbison '12.5, Jenny Johnston '14, Adam Milano '14

form, the Otters arranged to do shows every Sunday, starting Sept. 30. The shows will be open to the public and will run the cost of a suggested donation, so show-goers may pay as little or as much as they choose.

On top of this, the Otters will also be doing weekly "Otters and Friends" stand-up shows in the Hepburn Zoo theater.

These shows will be free, every Friday and begin this Friday, Sept. 28.

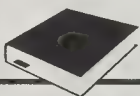
The Otters also hinted at their end-of-the-year show — an "Olympics kind of deal," according to De La Cruz. They will

collaborate with another student improv group, Middlebrow, which will also hold auditions next week on Oct. 1 and 3.

These performances, combined with a production deal with mtvU, paint a bright future for the Otters.

"They [the Otters] are like my family on campus," reflected Alexandra Kennedy '13.5. "It's not about trying to be funny — it's about being yourself ... Whether [students] have been doing [improv] for years, or whether they have just started, or whether they've never done it at all — we're just looking for people who are enthusiastic about it."

## BOOKING IT



BY MICHAEL GAFFNEY

Jonathan Franzen's new collection, *Farther Away*, gathers together 21 highly readable essays, originally published between 1998 and 2011.

The essays cover a wide variety of topics — ranging from birds and the environment, technology and the death of Franzen's friend, the writer David Foster Wallace — that obsessively repeat themselves. The title essay combines these recurrent themes into a single, beautiful essay, which is easily the most compelling nonfiction writing in the book. In it, Franzen recounts a dangerous journey he made to *Masafuera* ("Farther Away"), an island five hundred miles off the coast of Chile.

Motivating the journey was Franzen's deep sense of boredom and frustration after he completed his latest novel, *Freedom*, as well as the desire to retreat to an isolated location and properly deal with the recent death of his close friend.

Carrying with him only the bare supplies to live and navigate on the island and a copy of *Robinson Crusoe* (the novel that inspired him to try his luck alone on an island), Franzen hoped to escape from his ever present BlackBerry and see the *Masafuera rayadito*, a songbird native only to that island.

Although the essay is at times humorous — he arrives at the island prepared with a tent only to discover the comforts of a *refugio* (a well-stocked wooden cabin), which he humorously becomes unable to refuse — the tone of the essay is unmistakably serious, meditative

and, as is customary with Franzen's fiction, angry.

At times, the beginning and purpose of novels becomes the topic, and at other more impressive moments, the sadness and fury that accompany Wallace's suicide. In these moments, Franzen comes off as truly furious; at one point, he claims that his friend's suicide was "done in a way to inflict maximum pain on those he loved most." These sentences are both painful to read and shockingly honest.

In the wake of this moving essay are pieces covering, more specifically, its individual themes. In "Pain Won't Kill You," which was originally a commencement speech, Franzen perceptively comments on technology's "commodification of love," a subject that he explores further in "I Just Called To Say I Love You." Both explore that extreme difficulty love faces in the contemporary world, and they convince the reader to reconsider the significance of technology.

But Franzen's more impassioned writing concerns birds and the environment. Two of the longest essays "The Ugly Mediterranean" and "The Chinese Puffin" (around 40 pages each) investigate the environmental and aviary atrocities in China and Malta. In particular, these essays feel journalistic and documentary-like, making them by far the most informative and shocking. Little did I know that bird-hunting and the consumption of songbirds as a delicacy is both rampant and illegal in the Mediterranean. Here Franzen displays a gift for effectively and humorously quoting interviewees. When discussing the status of anti-bird hunting laws in Malta post-EU-membership, Franzen quotes one man who

said that "the situation has gone from being diabolical to merely atrocious."

Aside from the essays on birds and technology, a formidable chunk of this collection, nine essays totaling about 75 pages, consists of book reviews. Some focus on contemporary writers like Alice Munroe and Donald Antrim, but most consist of, in Franzen's own words "pleas for underappreciated writers," whose works are invariably older. These reviews, while interesting at times, are neither urgent nor convincing. Despite the reviews' immense readability — Franzen consistently writes clearly in both his fiction and nonfiction — I found myself, like the narrator of "Father Away," a little bored.

But for me that is not the real problem with these essays. The greatest difficulty with reading Franzen is his tireless anger and pessimism. It seems that, regardless of subject, Franzen discovers some new and innovative way to be outraged. Even worse, this attitude is intentional; in the first essay of the collection, Franzen admits that "Whatever I most hated, at a particular moment, became the thing I wanted to write about." I find it challenging to recommend over 300 pages of hate-motivated prose.

Recommendation: unless you really like Franzen, or you're looking for some insight into his novels ("On Autobiographical Fiction" reveals a great deal behind the writing process behind the National-Book-Award-winning novel, *The Corrections*), I do not recommend buying or reading this collection. I do, however, suggest reading the title essay, which you can find for free on *The New Yorker's* website.

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OR SEND AN OP-ED OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO  
CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU





## Volleyball team finishes 2-1 at Coast Guard Invitational

By Mary Claire Ecclesine

Friday, Sept. 21 and Saturday, Sept. 22, the Middlebury women's volleyball team returned to the court with three games at the Coast Guard Invitational. After dropping the first game, the Panthers rebounded with two wins on Saturday.

After a five-hour bus ride to New London, Conn. the Panthers were tested immediately by the host school, ultimately falling three sets to one. After coming out strong and winning the first set 25-22, the Panthers were defeated in the next three sets 21-25, 17-25 and 19-25. Catherine Walker '13, Kelsey DePorto '14, Samantha Marmolejo '14 and Karen Matic '13 led the Bears victory, racking up a total of 33 kills and 27 digs.

The Panthers, meanwhile, received contributions from Piper Underbrink '15,

who contributed an impressive 11 kills and four blocks, while senior Julia Gibbs '13 totaled 15 digs and 34 assists.

Saturday morning, the girls came out with new momentum, downing DeSales University and Lasell College 3-1 and 3-0, respectively. In the team's first game against DeSales, Middlebury took the first set 25-16, but lost the second set 13-25. However, after the short break between sets, the Panthers recovered to edge the Bulldogs 26-24 and 25-17 in the last two sets of the game.

The win improved the Panthers to 6-3 on the season heading into their final game of the tournament. Middlebury's two right hitters, Amy Hart '14 and Olivia Kolodka '15, led the team with 24 combined kills — 13 and 11, respectively — while Julia Gibbs '13 added 25 assists and senior captain Caitlin Barrett '13 solidified the Middlebury

victory with 17 digs.

The 3-0 shutout against Lasell College was a thrilling way for the Panthers to close out the three-game tournament. With ease, the team quickly defeated the Lasers 25-9, 25-12 and 25-11 in the straight-setter. The standout players of the game included Kolodka, who had eight kills, and first-year setter Katherine Haderlein '16, who dished out 13 assists. Despite some impressive individual performances, nine different players registered kills in the game, demonstrating the cohesion within the team — one reason for the squad's impressive 7-3 start to the season.

Following five consecutive road contests, the Panthers return home this weekend, hosting NESCAC rivals Colby and Bates at Pepin Gymnasium on Friday Oct. 28 and Saturday Oct. 29.

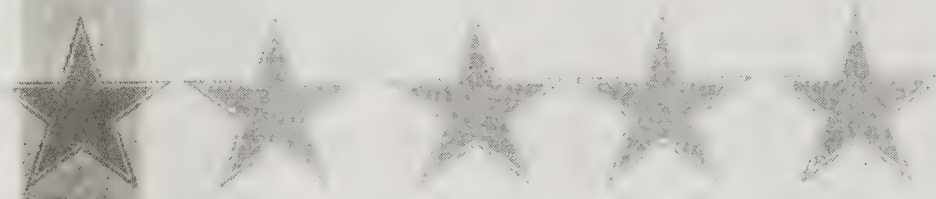


FILE PHOTO  
Middlebury bounced back from an opening loss at Cost Guard to win two straight.

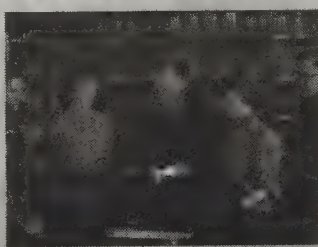
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# Cross country teams both finish in top three

By Gabe Weissman

The Middlebury men's and women's cross country teams raced in the Purple Valley Classic this weekend, held at Mt. Greylock High School in Williamstown, Mass. The men's cross country team, with a pre-race ranking of nine out of the 15-team field placed second overall behind Williams, while the women's team placed third overall in the 17-team field, behind Williams and MIT. This performance comes a week after the men's and women's overall victory in the Aldrich Invitational, Middlebury's only home meet of the season.

The highlight of the women's cross country six-kilometer race was the performance of Middlebury senior Addie Tousley '13, who placed first overall out of a 215-woman field with a time of 21:50. This victory comes days after Tousley placed first in the Aldrich Invitational, and subsequently was named NESCAC Performer of the Week for her display.

Other notable efforts from the women's competition at Purple Valley include Kate Rominger '14 and Lucy

Whipps '14 finishing in fifth and 21st place, respectively.

The men's cross country team, which placed second, was led by co-captain Patrick Hebble '13, who placed third overall in the 208-man field.

Hebble ran the eight-kilometer race with a time of 26:20, averaging a 5:18 mile throughout the race. This performance was complemented by an eighth-place finish from senior co-captain Jack Davies '13 who finished with a time of 26:34.

Davies' performance comes two weeks after being named NESCAC Performer of the Week on Sept. 10, a result of his strong showing in the Dartmouth Invitational against Dartmouth and Syracuse.

Other top runners in the Purple Valley Classic included Kevin Wood '15, Anthony Lee '13 and Greg Krathwohl, who finished 21st, 22nd and 23rd overall, respectively.

After finishing at the bottom of the three-team field at the season-opening Dartmouth Classic, the performances at the Purple Valley Classic from the men's

and women's cross country teams are further indications that both groups are back on track towards having successful seasons.

"The team was generally pleased with how we finished overall, although many on the team felt as though they needed to work on their individual performance," Hebble said. "Coming after four of our hardest weeks of the season, it was impressive that we were able to place second. I think this says a lot about our team's depth this year."

The recent success can be attributed to leadership from veteran, upperclassmen runners on both the men's and women's teams.

For the men's team, however, Hebble believes that the upcoming Vermont State Meet at Lyndon State College this Saturday Sept. 29, will give some of the younger runners an opportunity to lead the team as many of the upperclassmen runners will rest this week.

The cross country teams swept the State Meet with a similar strategy last year, resting many of their top runners in preparation for NESCACs in October.



FILE PHOTO

The cross country teams both finished in the top-three in the Purple Valley Classic.

# Foote passes for five touchdowns in Panthers win

CONTINUED FROM 24

Brendan Rankowitz '15, connecting with the sophomore for a 24-yard touchdown pass, the first of Rankowitz's career. It was one of seven catches on the day for Rankowitz, who led the team with 77 yards receiving in his second career start.

"He had seven catches and three of them were really big catches," Ritter said of Rankowitz. "He got us out of a hole in one, got us a critical first down on another ... it was great to see someone step up. We were hoping he could be this kind of receiver. It allows us to keep spreading the ball around."

With a 14-3 lead, the Panthers defense preyed on another errant Bowdoin pass. Backup quarterback Thomas Romero — playing in relief of White who sustained an injury — floated a pass directly at strong safety Jared Onouye '14, who returned the interception 18 yards to the Bowdoin 20-yard line.

This time the offense wasted no time putting points on the board, with Foote completing a 16-yard touchdown pass to tight end Billy Chapman '13 on fourth and six, expanding the Middlebury lead to 18. Foote and Chapman connected seven times on the afternoon for 76 yards and two

scores.

Middlebury's only defensive glitch of the half came on the Polar Bears' final possession before the break. Facing a third and eight from the 25-yard line, Romero completed a 40-yard pass — his longest of the day — to Nick Goldin. Four plays later, Romero completed a 28-yard pass to receiver David Black for the Polar Bears' only passing touchdown of the game. The ensuing point after try, however, was blocked, giving the Panthers a 21-9 half-time advantage.

Middlebury opened the second half with a clinical, 12-play, 78-yard touchdown drive, capped off by a one-yard run by Ashkar. Rankowitz kept the drive alive, however, hauling in a 12-yard pass from Foote on fourth and six from the Bowdoin 27-yard line. Ashkar, meanwhile, was steady and dependable, rushing for 79 yards on 19 carries while catching three balls for 25 yards.

The Polar Bears responded with a touchdown drive of their own, driving 90 yards on 10 plays in under four minutes to draw within 10. Following the Greg Pierce

touchdown run, head coach Dave Caputi opted to go for two, in an attempt to make it a 28-20 game with 2:44 remaining in the third quarter. The attempt was unsuccessful and Bowdoin never challenged again.

Middlebury added two fourth quarter touchdowns to seal the victory as Foote completed touchdown passes of 19 and 25 yards to Driscoll and Chapman, respectively. The nation's top passer from last season once again put up staggering numbers, finishing the game with 285 yards passing and five touchdowns while completing 26 of 44 attempts. The performance earned him NESCAC Player of the Week honors, the third time Foote has won the award in his short time at Middlebury.

BOB RITTER  
HEAD COACH

Middlebury's offensive success in the second half was due in part to better timing between Foote and his receivers, but in large part to the play of the offensive line, as well. Bookended by tackles Ryan Moores '13 and Jack Allard '14 and bolstered by interior lineman Ling Zhou '13, Harris Huguenard '13 and Benjamin Green '14 the Panthers boast one of the most talented and experienced units in the conference.

**"Our offensive line did a tremendous job ... to throw the ball 44 times without a sack is pretty incredible."**

"We've got a lot experience on the offensive line," Huguenard said. "We only gave up nine sacks [as a unit] last year and our goal this year is to give up even less. [Foote] does a great job of getting the ball out early and reading the defenses, too, which makes it easier for us."

The group easily overmatched an inexperienced Bowdoin defensive line, which did not return a single starter from last year's team, opening holes for Ashkar and passing lanes for Foote.

"Our offensive line did a tremendous job not only blocking the run game and getting some great push, but to throw the ball 44 times without [allowing] a sack is pretty incredible," Ritter said.

Equally important — and much more surprising — was the play of the defense, which dominated Bowdoin, though injuries to the visitor's top running back and quarterback certainly played a role. Tri-captain John Wiet '13 led the charge, totaling 10 tackles and a sack. First-year linebacker Tim Patricia '16 was impressive in his first game, finishing with nine tackles. Cornerback Dan Kenerson '13, meanwhile, added to pass deflections to his six tackles.

The Panthers travel to Colby this weekend to play the Mules (0-1). Middlebury beat Colby 41-15 last season at Youngman Field.

## EDITORS' PICKS



DAMON HATHEWAY (61-52, .539)

**OVER/UNDER:** Three touchdown passes for Panther quarterback Mac Foote '14 this Saturday at Colby.

**Will Alvand Hajizadeh '13 get back on the score sheet (goal or assist) against Wesleyan and Castleton State?**

**How many sets will Volleyball lose against Bates and Colby this weekend?**

**How many points (closest to) will Lauren Greer '13 score against Wesleyan and Castleton State?**

**Which team will finish with the MLB's best record?**



OWEN TEACH (27-31, .465)

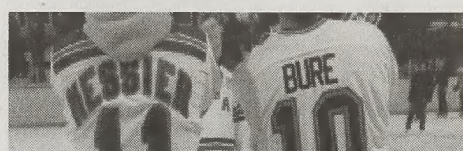
**OVER**  
Colby lost to Williams 41-7 this past week. Expect the passing offense to make it rain.

**YES**  
Fear him.

**FOUR**  
Really looking to get my record over .500 this week. It's questions like these that make it hard.

**SIX**  
The team hasn't put up too many goals, but when they do, it's Lauren Greer '13.

**THE NATIONALS**  
That's a clown question, bro. To all the Phillies, Yankees and Sox fans ... get used to #Natitude.



TOM CLAYTON (4-6, .400)

**OVER**  
Greatest Nobles alumnus on campus by a long shot.

**YES**  
I think I predicted this one when we were kids in Stew, years ago ...

**THREE**  
They will be tested in the wilderness of Maine, but they will not give in.

**FIVE**  
And she's better on the ice.

**THE YANKEES**  
Who's panicking? Are you panicking?

**OVER**  
Foote torched the Mules for four touchdowns and 391 yards last season.

**YES**  
Seven points in six games sounds like good odds to me.

**THREE**  
Two wins for the team, but the Wesleyan game will go five sets.

**SEVEN**  
Greer is absurdly good.

**THE REDS**  
The Nationals will rue the decision to shut down Stephen Strasburg.



# MCRC stuns conference rival Northeastern

By Tom Clayton

The Middlebury College Rugby Club (MCRC) edged Northeastern 23-20 on Saturday, Sept. 22, on the strength of three tries from fullback Allan Stafford '13.5. Stafford completed his second hat trick in as many games with a run to the corner with five minutes left that gave the Blue the decisive five points.

The victory over the reigning East Coast Rugby Conference (ECRC) champions establishes MCRC as a power in the conference. At the onset of the match, however, as Northeastern took an early lead and the Blue struggled for field position in front of a boisterous home crowd, the victory was far from foretold.

"We felt we started the game not believing in ourselves," said head coach

John Phillips.

The MCRC side fell behind Northeastern 12-0 in the first ten minutes of play. Strong and physical on the line, the visiting Mad Dogs controlled play from the scrum to the margins of the field, breaking tackles and charting long runs into Blue territory.

"Early on we were caught off-guard by how fast and aggressive they were on attack," said co-captain and All-American flyhalf Brian Sirkia '12.5.

Gradually, Sirkia and the crew of Middlebury forwards took control of the ruck from the center of the pitch. Then, 16 minutes into the half, Sirkia and Stafford teamed up for the play that turned the course of the match in Middlebury's favor.

Stafford recovered a precise downfield kick from Sirkia and brought it to the

corner of the end zone.

"Our first try gave us enough confidence to settle down and play our style of game," Sirkia said. "In the end, I think our fitness really paid off and gave us the extra bit to hang on to our lead."

The sides patiently built attacks and traded points, including a second try from Stafford that put Middlebury ahead 18-17, 17 minutes into the second half.

But Northeastern quickly recaptured the lead on a penalty, and with the clock winding down the score stood at 20-17.

As thoroughly as the Mad Dogs dominated play in the opening minutes, MCRC, playing with equal parts poise and resolve, owned the match's dramatic closing minutes.

"It's not like football — you can't stop the game and huddle up," Phillips said. "The boys knew what they had to do and they did it well."

Throughout the match, the Middlebury offense found room for advancement on the flanks of Northeastern's big middle pack. With the match on the line, Phillips' side returned to this touchstone attack when flyhalf Vince Mariano '14 spun the ball wide to Stafford, who found the corner of the endzone to complete his hat trick and put the Blue ahead for good.

"We knew Stafford was great, but we didn't realize he was quite that great," Phillips said. "He has really made a

difference for us so far this year."

Throughout the match, a squad of substitutes, including Mariano and first-years Griffin Jones '16, Aaron Yappert '16 and Cole Baker '16, reinvigorated the Middlebury starting 15. In the end, fitness and fresh legs gave the Blue the advantage over an experienced, skilled but exhausted visiting side.

The champion of the ECRC, a conference that includes Boston College, the University of Albany, the University of Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University and the University of Massachusetts, will receive an automatic bid to the round of 16 in this year's USA Rugby tournament in the spring.

Last year, an undefeated Northeastern side took the crown in the inaugural season of ECRC play. This season the conference is up for grabs, and in the team's second season in Division I-AA, Middlebury feels poised to make a mark on the national stage.

"This win really shakes up the rankings in our conference and puts us in a good position moving forward," said Stafford.

This weekend the MCRC will travel to Southern Connecticut to face another experienced conference rival.

Last September, the Panthers handily defeated Southern Connecticut by a score of 30-7.

ALLAN STAFFORD '13.5  
FULLBACK

## PANTHER SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL vs. Bowdoin	42-18 <sup>W</sup>	Panthers dropped some global warming on the Bowdoin Polar Bears in the season opener
WOMEN'S SOCCER vs. Amherst	0-0 <sup>T</sup>	Foody stopped everything, but the offense flagged on Sunday
MEN'S SOCCER vs. Amherst	0-2 <sup>L</sup>	Disappointing end to a down weekend for the men
FIELD HOCKEY vs. Amherst	3-1 <sup>W</sup>	Greer and company still rolling through the NESCAC with their sights on NAAs
VOLLEYBALL vs. Lasell	3-0 <sup>W</sup>	One loss and a strong finish at the Coast Guard Invitational

## Men's soccer fails to score in two home conference losses, now .500

By Owen Teach

The Middlebury men's soccer team suffered two defeats at home over the weekend, both to NESCAC rivals.

Coming off a three-game win streak that featured both offensive and defensive might, the men's soccer team anticipated cementing its status as a NESCAC contender. After the team dropped games to Bowdoin (1-0) and Amherst (2-0), however, the Panthers now sit at 1-3 in conference and 3-3 overall, and must head back to the drawing board after being held off the score sheet in consecutive contests.

While the shots statistic may not always be the best indicator of a team's performance, Middlebury did not offer much challenge to opposing keepers this past weekend. After firing 45 combined shots during its winning run against Norwich, Colby and Plymouth State, the Panthers offense came to a halt at home, managing just five attempts in the two conference games.

Coach Dave Saward spoke about his team's offensive lapse.

"I believe that shooting is a mental aspect as much as a technical one," said Saward. "We looked for the perfect shot when we shouldn't have been. We also need to be more creative in our shot selection and shape shots around defenders."

Midfielder Sam Peisch '13.5 echoed his coach's reaction.

"Being dangerous in the final third is definitely something we need to improve upon," said Peisch. "This weekend was tough because Bowdoin and Amherst play a style that is not conducive to creating chances, but we definitely need to adjust and attempt to impose our style of play on our opponents."

In the same respect, Saward also talked about the need for his players to take more risks on the ball.

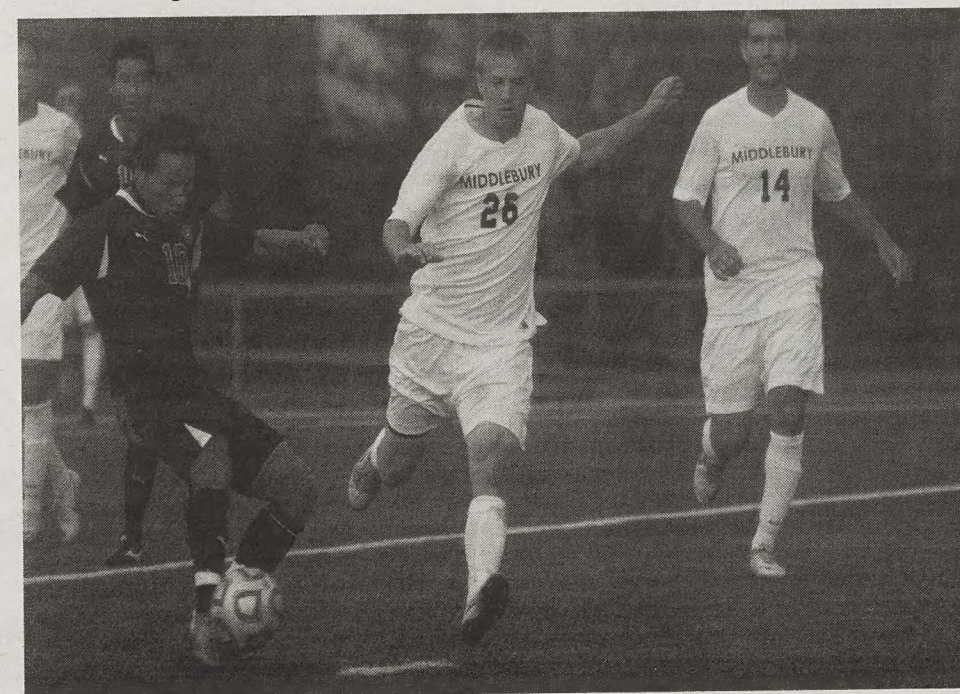
"The players in forward positions need to have the willingness to fail," said Saward. "When you look at great strikers of the world, they miss a lot but are also rewarded for keeping at it. The mentality of a finisher has

to be selfish. My players are not selfish, but they also need that mentality."

Another reason for the team's offensive woes over the weekend was that the two opposing teams held leading-scorer Alvand Hajizadeh '13 in check. After scoring the winning goal in the last three consecutive contests, Hajizadeh did not record a shot on target, though he did nearly net an equalizer in the second half against Amherst when he fired a shot just wide of the post.

"I wouldn't say Alvand's performance has dropped off, just that the quality of the defending was excellent on both teams," said Saward. "Against strong opponents, it's that much harder for any striker to find the gaps to get their shots off."

While both opposing sides from this past weekend are enjoying success this year, Amherst in particular is shaping up to be a national championship threat. The defending NESCAC champion now sits at 5-0.



Jack Freeman '13 challenges an Amherst shot attempt while Noah Goss-Woliner '15 looks on. The Panthers couldn't generate much offense the other way, losing 2-0.

## BY THE NUMB3RS

0 Goals allowed by goaltender Elizabeth Foody in five games. 569:51 scoreless minutes.

Touchdown passes thrown by McCallum Foote in Saturday's win over Bowdoin. Good enough for NESCAC Player of the Week. 5

24 Total penalties in the Patriots-Ravens game Sunday night

Points scored by Lauren Greer in five games. 25

56 Number of yards on wide receiver Zach Driscoll's first punt attempt on Saturday.

## THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT GR8 EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM	Owen's Opinions
1	FIELD HOCKEY	Another week. Two more wins. They aren't budging.
2	MEN'S RUGBY	Win against Northeastern shows this team is a threat.
3	FOOTBALL	Offense rolls in season opener as focus turns to Colby.
4	WOMEN'S SOCCER	A tie against Amherst sees them slide in a stacked top 4.
5	CROSS COUNTRY	Another strong showing for both sides at Purple valley.
6	VOLLEYBALL	Two wins at Coast Guard has them climbing a bit.
7	MEN'S SOCCER	Frustrated and held without a goal over the weekend.
8	GOLF	Here's your shout out, Andrew Emerson '13.

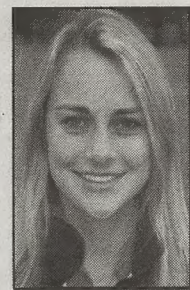


# PANTHER PROFILE

Interviews with Middlebury's Student Athletes

By Christine Schozer

Summer Spillane '15 (Shelburne, Vt.), a sophomore on the Middlebury women's cross country team, ran for Champlain Valley Union High School, the top team in the state, where she competed at Nike Nationals before running for Middlebury. As a member of the "blob" – the women's nickname for their strong, tight-knit pack – Spillane is looking forward to improving her results from last year, staying fit and keeping motivated as a potential neuroscience major and proud member of the talented women's cross-country team.



**1**  
What are your goals for this season?

My goal is to continue to be strong, stay away from any injuries and do more recovery. I'm [hoping to] find time to do the little things that add up in the end so I can be top-seven and contribute to the team. [I also want to] reach out [to the first-years with advice] so our team can be good in the years to come.

**2**  
What was your first memory of the sport?

I grew up doing gymnastics [but wanted] to join a school team. In eighth grade, I joined the cross country team because I thought, "oh that's the easiest one." [During practice I would be] out of breath and would walk in the back – I wouldn't really try. But I have a really competitive nature, so [during] races I would try so hard. My coaches said, "Where did that come from?" So I [thought] this is cool that I can do well, but if I want it to hurt less [I need] to train. So eighth grade was a brutal year for races, but it [made me want to] keep running.

**3**  
What is your most recent stand out memory?

We had [our first] race at Dartmouth this season. I remember being on the line with a small group compared to last year and [believing] our team is so strong and close. We took off [knowing] the paces that we [should] run. We all [ran] together and cheered [for each other]. All the Division I schools were ahead, but we knew what we were supposed to be doing – we had a job to do, and we were all doing it together. It felt really good and I knew that this year we have a lot of team spirit.

**4**

What has been a pivotal moment in your career so far?

In 11th grade, my cousin, Taylor, [chose to run] cross-country, [which] I didn't like because I [thought] she was following me and [since] she is really athletic, I worried she'd beat me. That fear of the competition [was] the greatest thing for my career. We would work together in races and she would pull me through when things were hard. I learned a great deal from that relationship and now I am able to form bonds on this Middlebury team that mimic [my relationship with Taylor.]

**5**

How has life as an athlete helped you as a student?

Individual motivation is a big [factor] on the cross-country team. Because cross country is a team sport, but it's more individualized than other sports, you have to be responsible for yourself. How you take care of your body is going to affect the team positively or negatively, but ultimately it comes down to you – how you prepare, how you train, how you race and [your mentality]. This [transfers] to academics [because] your success is dependent on how you treat [your work]. I think that cross country has taught me motivation and knowing that you can push yourself harder than you think, especially with your work and running.

**6**

Do you still love the sport?

I definitely love the sport. I always tell people that when you're running, that's not the best part about it – it's when you're finished. It's like – wow, I just ran 13 miles on a Sunday morning – I did that. By the end of the week you're so tired [from] training, you race and when you finally cross the finish line you're like – wow, it was all worth it. Even though it sucks at the time – [where you think,] I hate this, this hurts so much – there's nothing like the feeling of finishing a hard workout or a race, it make's it all worth it. That's where I find the love for the sport.

## Women's soccer remains undefeated

By Alex Morris

The Middlebury women's soccer team, showing grit and determination, continued their undefeated start to the season with a 1-0 victory over Bowdoin on Saturday, Sept. 22. However, the Panthers weren't able to build on Saturday's result as they endured a frustrating 0-0 draw against Amherst on Sunday, Sept. 23.

In the Saturday game against Bowdoin, the match started slowly, as both sides negated the opposition's attack and battled for possession. However, Middlebury soon grew into the game and managed five more shots on goal than the Polar Bears with linking forward play that utilized their wide players.

The Panthers started the second half comfortably dominating possession. Middlebury was able to create fast build-up play with neat, short passes. The breakthrough came for the team early after play resumed at the 51:41 mark, as the ball from Lucy Wagner's '14 laser-precise effort at a tight angle from the right corner took an unexpected flight path, leaving Bowdoin goalkeeper Bridget McCarthy helpless. The goal was Wagner's first of her Middlebury career and the highlight of the double header, according to Coach Peter Kim.

Panthers goalkeeper Elizabeth Foody '14 was never troubled by the Bowdoin attack, making comfortable saves and finishing with yet another shutout, bringing her season tally to five in five games.

The game also proved to be very physical, requiring the players to be strong with the ball as the teams committed a combined 18 fouls.

Though the Panthers entered the game with high confidence coming off the win over Bowdoin, Saturday, they were unable to make a breakthrough against Amherst in the 110-minute game on Sunday.

The Panthers applied pressure right from the outset, quickly breaking down Amherst's forward play by limiting the player's space on the ball. Middlebury also pushed the tempo, beating the Amherst defenders down the wings to create offensive chances.

However, despite the promising and patient build-up, the game left the Panthers wondering "what if?" after Scarlett Kirk '14 hit the crossbar three times in the space of 53 minutes.

Her first effort came in the 10th minute as her shot hit the frame of the goal from outside the 18-yard box and the team was unable to capitalize on the rebound.

In the second half Kirk hit the crossbar again, this time from close range after a pass from Rachel Madding '13 in the 54th minute. Her hat trick of crossbar shots was completed in the 63rd minute from a free kick just outside the box. The lack of reward was a frustrating aspect of play over the weekend.

"Our offense is doing a great job, but we're just missing the finishing product," Kim said. Both teams' goalkeepers put in good shifts as both Holly Burwick and Elizabeth Foody '14 pulled off diving one-handed saves. Foody kept the Panthers in the game as Amherst finished the overtime periods the stronger of the two sides.

It was the first time this season that the Panthers were unable to find the back of the net and the first time since they drew 0-0 with Williams in the 2011 NESCAC Semifinals. However, despite the frustrated attack, the Panthers have yet to lose, and many of the team members felt that they played to the best of their abilities.

"We battled hard and we're a little disappointed that the game ended in a tie," said Maddy Boston '13. "Our team is proud of the way everyone played and we look forward to meeting Amherst again later this season for a rematch."



FILE PHOTO

The Panthers have yet to concede this season, with two more shutouts last weekend.

## Men's and women's golf teams compete at Mt. Holyoke

By Christine Schozer

Over the weekend, the Middlebury men's golf team finished second behind Williams at the Williams Invitational, while the women's golf team finished fourth at the Mt. Holyoke Invitational.

The Panther men put a solid performance together, bettering their last two tournaments. Williams took to their home course commandingly with a pair of 292 combined daily scores, for a 584-stroke weekend total. Middlebury sat comfortably in second with 599 strokes, ahead of Babson (602) and Trinity (603). After day one, the men were tied for fourth place, but a better day Saturday vaulted them onto the podium by the tournament's end.

Eric Laorr '15, a consistent performer so far this fall, led the men and finished

tied for sixth overall, posting a two-day total of 154.

"I always get geared up for tournaments at Williams," Laorr said. "I love playing their course and I love the rivalry between our schools."

Rob Donahoe '14 and William Prince '13, both scoring 157, finished close on Laorr's heels. Chris Atwood '14 rounded out the Panther's top-four scorers with 158 strokes on the weekend.

Laorr navigated the challenging Taconic Golf Club, the Eph's home course in the Berkshire Mountains.

"An important part of playing consistently is to be fully committed to your game during the round, regardless of whether or not you've brought your best golf to the course," said Laorr. "I think that I have managed to stay focused and

committed on the course and that has led to better play this fall. [This weekend] I was pleased with the way I played. I was swinging the club well."

Some odd bounces and rare lapses marred the scorecards of the top Panther golfers, but Laorr's bellwether play guided the team to the top.

"I think as a team, we can take our second place finish as a positive," he added, "but there is room for improvement in terms of playing our own games and working with what we brought that day, good or bad. I hope that our team can go into the NESCAC qualifier at Amherst with momentum and purpose."

After two impressive weekends, the women finished the Mt. Holyoke Tournament in fourth place in the team

rankings. Williams took the top spot with 647 strokes followed by Merrimack College and Wagner College, who tied for second with 651s. Middlebury (654) came in with five strokes less than fifth place Ithaca (659).

All top-four Panther scorers placed in the top-20, paced by Keely Levins '13, who led the team for the third straight weekend and finished in eighth place with 160 strokes. Michelle Peng '15, who has started the season off with a number of competitive finishes, tied for ninth with 161 strokes, while Caroline Kenter '14 and Monica Chow '16 tied for 19th with scores of 167.

The men's golf team travels to Amherst for NESCAC Qualifiers, while the women host the Middlebury Invitational this weekend.



# Football cruises to 48-12 win in opener

By Damon Hatheway

Head coach Bob Ritter has the same goal heading into every season — start 1-0. Saturday, his team accomplished just that, pulling away from a banged-up Bowdoin team for a 42-18 win.

Middlebury, which led the NESCAC in total offense last season, had trouble igniting its high-powered offense early in the game. The Panthers defense, however, was dominant from the start, intercepting Bowdoin quarterback Grant White's first pass attempt of the game and adding two more takeaways later in the half.

"[Turnovers are] a point of emphasis," said Ritter. "The pressure we put on the quarterback and some of the things we were doing in the secondary enabled the guys to put themselves in great position [to make plays]."

On the first possession of the game, Middlebury forced the Polar Bears into a third and long, deep in their own territory and jumped all over the play. Linebacker Matt Crimmins '14 deflected White's pass attempt

into the air, and a hustling Bryant Adams '14 completed the interception, plucking the ball out of the air.

The Panthers offense took over on the Polar Bears nine-yard line, running the ball twice with Remi Ashkar '13 before quarterback Mac Foote '14 connected with Zach Driscoll '13 from three yards out on third and goal. Driscoll finished the game with five receptions for 74 yards and a team-high two touchdowns.

As well as Driscoll played offensively, his impact on special teams might have been even more important. The senior wideout and long-time punt returner picked up a new job this season, replacing Matt Wassell '12 as the team's primary punter. On Driscoll's first attempt, the Concord, Mass. native boomed a 56-yard punt, knocking the ball out of bounds at the Bowdoin eight-yard line. Driscoll punted three times on the day, pinning all of them inside the 10-yard line, including a 39-yard boot, which was downed on the two-yard line.

"[Driscoll] is a great player for us — he really set the tone with

his punting," Ritter said. "We only had three punts and two of them he knock[ed] inside the ten. That was a huge part of our success defensively."

Driscoll gave the defense great field position and the defense returned the favor to the offense, forcing two punts and intercepting two passes on the Polar Bears' first four possessions. Joel Blockowicz '15 was responsible for the second interception, flashing into the passing lane and picking off another White pass. The sophomore cornerback returned the ball seven yards to the Bowdoin 20-yard line.

Despite the great field position, however, the offense failed to capitalize, punting twice and falling short on a fourth down deep in Bowdoin territory.

The team's offensive woes extended into the second quarter as the Panthers failed to convert on their second consecutive fourth and two, turning the ball over on downs at the Bowdoin 26-yard line.

"I think some of it was the first game [and adjusting to] game speed," Ritter said, addressing the

offense's slow start. "It was pretty windy, which might have affected some of the deeper throws, as well."

Now leading just 7-3, the

Middlebury offense finally found its rhythm as Foote established a rapport with wide receiver

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COURTESY OF PAMELA QUINN

Junior linebacker Bryant Adams '14 intercepted the first pass of his career, Saturday, returning the ball to the Bowdoin nine-yard line.

## Field hockey extends winning streak with pair of home wins

By Fritz Parker

The third-ranked Middlebury women's field hockey team defeated a pair of top-ten NESCAC opponents this weekend, edging visiting Bowdoin 2-1 on Saturday, Sept. 22, before beating Amherst by a 3-1 tally on the following day.

Tri-captain Lauren Greer '13 put Middlebury on the board first against fifth-ranked Bowdoin, converting on a breakaway feed from Katherine Theiss '14 for the early goal. Goalkeeper Madeline Brooks '13 made several strong saves to help Middlebury weather eight Bowdoin shots and four penalty corners during the first half. On the offensive end, Greer connected on a pass to Cat Fowler '15, who beat the Polar Bear keeper to give the Panthers a 2-0 lead going into the break.

Bowdoin got one back in the opening minutes of the second period, beating Brooks to trim the Middlebury lead to one. That would be as close as they would come, as a strong Panther defensive unit, led by Margaret Souther '13 and Meredith Rowe '15, shut down the Polar Bear attack for the remaining 30 minutes to give Middlebury the 2-1 victory.

The Panthers finished on top despite being outshot 15-14 on the afternoon, their first such deficit of the season.

"We scored our two goals in the first half to give us some breathing room, which may have contributed to how we were able to play calmly," said Fowler. "The pair of first-half goals definitely set the tone."

Middlebury returned to action the following afternoon against 10th-ranked Amherst.



COURTESY OF JOHN EWING

Catherine Fowler '15 and Lauren Greer '13 celebrate the team's third goal of the game, scored by Greer off an assist from Fowler.

Anna Kenyon '16 got the Panthers out to an early lead, taking a pass from Greer two minutes in and converting for the second goal of her career. The Lord Jeffs equalized minutes later, and the score stayed knotted at 1-1 until the final ten seconds of the half, when Greer took a penalty-corner insert pass from Charlotte Gardiner '13 and found the cage to give Middlebury the halftime lead.

In the second half, Greer notched her second tally of the game, giving her three goals and two assists for the weekend to run the Panther lead to two at 3-1. Brooks played a strong second half in goal for Middlebury, rejecting six shots down the stretch to help the Panthers run out the clock for the victory.

Both wins avenge regular-season losses from a year ago for the Panthers. Middlebury

also fell to Bowdoin in last year's NESCAC title game before exacting revenge in the NCAA semifinals.

With the two victories, Middlebury moves to a perfect 5-0 on the year and 4-0 in NESCAC play. The Panthers take sole possession of the top spot in the conference, dealing both Bowdoin and Amherst their first losses of the young season.

Saturday's defeat was the first regular-season loss for the Polar Bears since October of 2010, snapping a streak of 18 consecutive victories.

"These are definitely teams that we have seen multiple times in previous seasons, so we will most likely see them again," said Fowler. "We are excited to be 5-0, a place none of us have been before, and we plan to run off of this momentum as we move into the middle of our season."

## Panel celebrates 40th anniversary of Title IX

By Fritz Parker

Monday, Sept. 24, Middlebury hosted a panel discussion celebrating the 40th anniversary of the passing of Title IX, the 1972 legislation affording equal rights in education and, therefore, athletics for men and women. The event, "40 Years of Title IX — Legacy and Outlook," featured five panelists, each providing a unique perspective on the legislation and the four decades since its creation.

Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator Missy Foote kicked off the panel with a synopsis of her 36 years at Middlebury, beginning with her experience after being hired to coach swimming and basketball in 1977, when Middlebury featured eight women's teams that shared one locker room. Foote shared a story about taking a 17-member basketball team to a road game in a 15-passenger van, suggesting that such treatment was common for women's teams at the time.

"Since I came to Middlebury, women have had a net gain of seven sports," said Foote. "New facilities have been built, coaches have been hired and resources have been more equitably allocated to accommodate the athletic interests of our female students."

Foote spoke of the growing popularity of women's sports since Title IX passed when she was a college undergraduate.

"In 1972 when Title IX was passed, almost 300,000 girls participated in high school sports," said Foote. "Now that number is three million. Six times as many college women participate in sport now as in 1972."

Foote cited Middlebury's 19 women's national championships and the inordinate contribution of the school's women's teams to last year's Directors' Cup victory as evidence of progress in the 36 years since her arrival.

"Physical strength and athletic prowess means femininity at its

best," she said.

Foote posited a large deficit in the number of female collegiate coaches as evidence that there still was work to be done, a sentiment echoed by panel moderator Associate Director Emerita of Athletics Gail Smith, one of Middlebury's first female coaches.

"The model of coaching didn't take into account the complexities in a woman's life," Smith said.

Assistant Nordic skiing coach and 1984 Olympian Patty Ross described her experience as the nation's only female collegiate skiing coach, including a failed push to even the race distances between men's and women's competition.

"They told me, 'There's no room for feminism in Nordic skiing,'" said Ross.

2012 Olympian Lea Davison '05 related her own athletic journey, from her time on the Middlebury alpine ski team to this summer's London games, where she finished 11th in cross-country mountain biking. Davison was optimistic about United States women's historic performances in London, where women accounted for 29 of the US's 46 gold medals and over 44% of participants overall.

"It gave the rare chance for women's sports to be broadcast all over the world," said Davison. "My only question is why we're only doing this every four years."

Davison, along with her sister Sabra Davison '08, also runs the "Little Bellas — Mentoring on Mountain Bikes" program, which serves to help young women through participation in cycling.

Alumna and NCAA Woman of the Year Finalist Margo Cramer '12 concluded the panel with a brief history of the Title IX legislation, as well as a look forward towards its 50th anniversary in 2022.

"I think it's important to understand the history and have a nuanced view of what the effects have been so we can continue to move forward," said Cramer.

